

health and restoring our systems. Mrs. Lovell is rather more advanced in her views, we should imagine, than most scientists of the day, and is certainly before her day and generation in believing, as she stated she did, that magnetism, heat and vitality are so bound up in each other that distinction is impossible; that loss of magnetic heat is loss of vitality; and to maintain an efficiency of magnetism in our system means perfect health. We are only quoting from a report; but if these be really Mrs. Lovell's views we should imagine that she is inclined to be metaphysical. And we would use that term as it was defined by the Scotch minister who was asked to explain its meaning, and replied, "Weel, ye see, when one mon's explaining to another mon something he don't understan' himsel', in language which the other mon can't understan' at all: why, that's metapheesical!"

* * *

In the umbrella-making trade, in boot making, and book-stitching, the machinist is now the skilled worker, and the woman who can only use the hands with which Providence has blessed her is held of little or no account, and in most of these machine trades is at best employed only as a "finisher," and paid from 6s. to 10s. a week. The wholesale millinery trade must be more lucrative for such women, provided only they have some artistic instinct to guide unusually deft fingers. Mr. Lakeman tells of one "smart little woman, whose taste was exquisite, and who trimmed bonnets as patterns for the workers," who turned out a dozen a day easily between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; and as she received 1s. 6d. apiece, "her week's money came to nearly £6." Three hundred a year! Who would not be an artist in bonnets?

NOTICES OF BOOKS.

NOTES ON SURGERY FOR NURSES. By Joseph Bell, F.R.C.S. Ed. Oliver and Boyd, Tweeddale Court, Edinburgh. Price 2s. 6d.

Mr. Bell, in his official capacity of consulting surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, has had a peculiar opportunity of knowing just exactly the sort of assistance nurses require in surgical cases; and this admirable little book is practically the *précis* of a series of lectures which Mr. Bell has himself delivered from time to time to the nursing staff of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. The work is entirely free from prolixity, and possesses the great advantage of being, what is so much valued in all hand-books nowadays, thoroughly matter-of-fact. It contains chapters on inflammation, suppuration, ulceration, gangrene, pyæmia, and septicæmia; on the healing of wounds, burns, and scalds; fractures and dislocations; tumours, and special operations; gives formulæ for lotions; and has a comprehensive index. Nurses are indebted to Mr. Bell for placing easily within their reach valuable information and hints on surgical matters.

DOCTORS AND DOCTORS. By Graham Everitt, Author of "English Caricaturists and Graphic Humorists of the Nineteenth Century." Swan Sonnenschein and Co., Paternoster Square, E.C. Price 6s.

Mr. Graham Everitt has the very happy knack of expressing himself in well-thought terms, tinged with just sufficient aggressiveness necessary to rivet the attention of his readers. He possesses, moreover, the capacity of speaking frankly, and makes a point of spelling plainly with a capital P. These are very acceptable features in these days of milky-watery literature, and we welcome them most heartily. The book is well conceived and admirably executed. Mr. Everitt as a layman unconsciously contrives to impress us, and succeeds in impressing us, with the fact that his personal observations of medico-social matters are not slight; and it is always to the advantage of any profession or class to hear what others outside them think or say. In each of the twelve chapters before us there is plenty to interest, and a great deal to instruct; but we specially are attracted by "Some Old Patients;" "Doctors and Patients, being an Essay upon Humbug," which sets forth very tersely the evils of the well-to-do encroaching upon the confines and benefits of hospitals and charitable institutions; "Medicine Mania"—this is more than of merely passing interest; and "The Quackery of American Spiritualism," which is a severe but well-deserved exposure of this one of the, alas! many forms of nineteenth century human weak-mindedness. We shall hope to refer again to this work.

CORRESPONDENCE.

* * *
* * We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents. Brevity and conciseness will have first consideration. See notices.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—Perhaps some reader of the *Nursing Record* will be able to tell me, through its columns, if there is any hospital in London where ladies whose age is upwards of forty are received as probationers without paying the usual guinea a week. I enclose my card.

F. G. E.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—To prove that the statement made in *The Hospital* a fortnight ago—that the members of the British Nurses' Association were attempting to wreck the Pension Fund—is untrue, I should like to say that the prospectus of the fund has been hung up for some time in a conspicuous position in the sitting room of the nurses of the Chelsea Infirmary, with these words in the matron's handwriting attached to it: "The matron will be glad to take the name of any nurse who is anxious to join the Pension Fund"; thus encouraging the nurses to join if they choose, but in justice bringing no pressure to bear upon them concerning the matter. I have heard more than one complaint from nurse friends in other institutions, where the authorities seem to imagine that £15 per annum at the age of sixty is a panacea for all the ills that a nurse is heir to, that this wise course of impar-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)