babies up by hand. So simple is the make of this bottle, that it is a wonder it has not long since superseded the long-tubed horrors, responsible in the past for so much suffering on the part of the poor mites who have been compelled to take their daily sustenance through long narrow tubes, which it is almost impossible to keep clean. This new bottle is made of very strong glass, with a wide mouth, into which screws a glass stopper which has a hole perforated through it, and a nozzle-shaped top over which the ordinary india-rubber teat is slipped. Screw and teat can be easily detached and cleansed, and, with the bottle, kept in cold water until again required for use. I spied out also a *sensible* feeder—most feeders are quite the reverse—made of white china, with *no* strainer, and a straight spout. Considering that all food to be given by feeder should be quite liquid, I have never yet grasped the reason for inserting this most irritating obstruction. An expectorator also of a new and excellent shape was here exhibited, being low and round, the covering made with a wide hole, all easily kept clean, and not to be mistaken for a *mug*—a shape still largely used in Hospitals as a spittoon, and owing to which similarity I have known many disagreeable accidents occur. The new measures of opal glass, with an inch width inserted of transparent glass, on which the distinctly-marked black numbers stood out in bold relief, should render the measurement of medicines and poisons absolutely safe. Graduated china measures, instead of glass, for measuring oil and sticky substances were also here, and greatly to be commended. Nurses, who have not always too much time to spare, know the difficulty of cleaning glass after contact with oil and grease.

Messrs. James Allen & Sons, I next observed, had furnished specimens of their sanitary and domestic inventions for the Hospital, the most noticeable being the portable Turkish hot-air and vapour bath, now so largely used to produce free action of the skin in the treatment of various diseases, and of which an exquisite little model in full use was exhibited—tiny bedstead, blankets, patient, all complete. The following are amongst its principal merits, according to the prospectus:

(1) Will give a hot-air bath.

(2) Will give a vapour bath.

(3) Will give a bath of hot-air and vapour combined.

(4) Will give a medicated bath of camomile flowers, poppy-heads, &c. Herb box or receiver supplied with each boiler.

(5) Will give a mercurial bath, by simply removing boiler, and using vapouriser, supplied specially for that purpose.

(6) It can be applied to the bed, used under a chair, or any local application required. The lamp, having three burners, can be modified to any requirement, and used for children or adults.

(7) For a portable bath, thoroughly efficient—bath of hot-air and vapour under a chair, three burners lighted, blanket well thrown over the whole, at the end of fifteen minutes the thermometer registered 140; removed boiler, hot-air only, ten minutes later thermometer registered 180.

(8) It is *perfectly safe*. Lamp baths have been brought into bad repute from accidents that have taken place in their use. Either in the construction of lamp or from over-filling, the spirit has percolated out at burner, and catching light, sets fire to carpets or surroundings. To prevent this a measure is provided which only half fills the lamp; also, in case, by accident, the lamp should get filled, a water channel is provided round each lamp, to be filled with cold water, to keep spirit in lamp cool, or if by chance the spirit should ooze out and catch light, the water would prevent it spreading.

(9) *It is a portable bath*. The apparatus will pack in a box less than twelve inches square, and with a pint tin bottle filled with spirit (2s. extra) sufficient for four times using, of at least thirty minutes each, weighs only 12lbs.

(10) Its price, £1 10s., places it within the reach of all. While elegant in appearance, it is thoroughly durable, every part that can be affected by heat either seamed or rivetted together.

Meeting all these requirements, it may truly be called "The Domestic Bath," and should find a place in every household.

Here also was a bright array of bronchitis, croup, and ventilating tracheotomy kettles, steam spray apparatus, throat spray and inhalers. Beyond this section the space allotted to the Royal Free Hospital was situated, and all connected with that Nursing School must have been proud of the array of Nursing appliances made by their pupils. Special commendation is due to the padding of splints here displayed; not only were they exquisitely neatly sewn, but evidently the comfort of the patient had been the first consideration—they were so soft and even. Those composed of plaster of Paris, lined with cotton wool, were so perfect, that had prizes been awarded, the Nurse whose handiwork they were would assuredly have gained one. A spongio-piline jacket, for retaining heat and moisture, and a quilted bronchitis jacket composed of mull muslin, lined with cotton wool, and neatly bound with white ribbon, were as pretty as they were useful.

From St. Bartholomew's the exhibits were more remarkable for quality than quantity, and covered but a small space. Most original was an ovatiotomy belt of grey cotille, cut on correct anatomical principles—that is to say, with a wide

previous page next page