

more interested in noticing in how strong a force in the Agricultural Hall are our friends who sell invalid pabulum, or have a special right to notice in *The Nursing Record*, from the fact that they are noted for the purity and goodness of their wares. We can hardly pretend to follow any order; let us take them as they come in our notebook.

Some years ago, the extraordinary qualities of the cuca plant were brought into notice from the fact that a pedestrian, who excited the wonder of the world, asserted that he owed his endurance to the use of the cuca-leaf. ROOT AND Co., LIMITED, have had the admirable idea to make a preparation of this stimulant with the purest possible cocoa, and we can testify that the CUCA COCOA thus prepared is very pleasant to the taste and an admirable tonic and restorative. Many medical men have sent unsolicited testimonials to the firm, and from their opinion it is evident that this is an invaluable help in nervous debility, and most useful in cases of exhaustion. One of the United States' Consuls notes that Cuca takers never know toothache, and keep their teeth in perfect condition, even to old age. The only disadvantage it has, is that it is a little hard to deal with as a dried leaf; but Messrs. Root have grappled with this difficulty very pleasantly for us.

VAN HOUTEN AND ZOON'S delicately flavoured beverage is also a great favourite with Nurses. It may seem expensive, but it is so soluble that it goes a very long way.

T. W. BEACH AND SONS show their preserves and bottled fruits. Everybody knows "Beach's Jam," but it is not everybody who knows why it is so good. Mr. Beach, so to speak, shakes the fruit trees into the preserving pan, adds pure sugar, and plays no tricks. His principal "preserver" is in the middle of an immense "fruit growery" of Lord Sudeley, and his motto is, "the sugar must go to the fruit, not the fruit to the sugar."

CROSSE'S MANUFACTURING COMPANY pay a good deal of attention to lime-juice, and a very excellent thing their lime-juice is. They also make capital Indian pickles.

Here is BOVRIL, of the Silver Castle. The lozenges made by the firm, plain and peptonised, are the pocket edition of a dinner. As for the Bovril Wine, it is a judicious mixture of extract of malt with the beef extract, and is a powerful restorative of the system.

THE PURE BEEF COMPANY justify their name with similar extracts, easy to use, always ready, and the very perfection of Hospital foods.

A. BIRD AND SONS' custard powders are so well-known as admirable substitutes for eggs, that a mere mention is sufficient.

FREEMAN AND HILDYARD have their stall as a neighbour to their Birmingham rivals, and have a "pudding powder" we specially recommend. It is in all flavours, chocolate, peach, vanilla, lemon, &c.; you simply add to it milk, sugar, and a little heat, *et voilà un pouding*.

The product of COOMBS' "EUREKA" FLOUR Co. is so pure and light, that an invalid may often eat pastry made from it, which made with other flours he would be forbidden to touch. It is exceptionally digestible. RIZINE we know and like excellently well in custards and puddings, but the stall of the company makes quite a show of enormous loaves of bread baked with rizine and flour. We are assured that this bread is sweet and moist under its hard crust, even *twenty-seven days* after baking.

ROGERS GERDS AND COMPANY'S speciality, CORALLINE, is another of these foods which should be in every hospital in the land. And so also should FLORADOR, a very beautiful grandulated preparation of wheat. The proportion of strength-giving constituents in this last is exceptionally great, and it works up into all sorts of delicious dainties.

An ingenious contrivance, known as the PEPPERETTE, made by Frederick, John, and Co., although rapidly becoming well known, is now exhibiting for the first time. The firm put the purest possible of condiments up in these pretty conical castors, white, black, and red pepper, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, cloves, &c. The excellence of the contrivance is that when not in use the spice is hermetically sealed from the air. It thus keeps its flavour better, and can be stored for any length of time.

KOPS' BREWERY COMPANY must be mentioned for their light, refreshing, non-intoxicating ale, brewed from the simple hop. It is excellent in flavour, and has a *lasting* quenching effect on thirst. Many invalids, who *will* not drink stout, like Kops' black draught, which is just as strengthening and infinitely lighter.

THE MAY BLOSSOM TEA COMPANY claim a mention for the good flavour and purity of their five o'clock herb. We had a big cup at their stall, and approved of it entirely. PEEK, FREAN, AND Co., by-the-by, who have a stall near, gave us a handsome little enamelled box of their biscuits to munch to the accompaniment of May Blossom fluid. A technical contemporary says that "the Midshipman Easy days of weevily sea biscuits passed away when this firm came into existence." In other words, they will put you up cakes that shall be good and sweet at the end of a three years' voyage.

From the point of view of our paper, we think we have exhausted "the show." Its motto, from

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)