

"GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

THE touching language of Her Majesty's letter to the Nation, expressing her warm gratitude to *all* her people, for their spontaneous outburst of sympathy with her and her children's sorrow, is so characteristic that all men feel they are the Queen's own words. The universality with which mourning has been worn by all classes during the last three weeks, shows more plainly than any empty figure of speech could do how the nation feels its loss, the greatness of which can hardly yet be estimated or understood. But there are few who will not recognise the deep significance of the conclusion of the letter, or who will not from their hearts echo Her Majesty's "earnest prayer that God may continue to give me health and strength to work for the good and happiness of my dear country and empire while life lasts."

NERVE FEVER.

WHAT'S in a name? is often asked in satire. How important may be the nomenclature of a disease is shown in the devastating plague from which all the world is at present suffering. Some foolish person at first named it Influenza, and by that most inappropriate title it has ever since been, and is still, known. The natural result has been that it has been treated and estimated as though it were a harmless cold in the head. It is beyond our province to discuss its etiology, but we do feel very strongly that its name should be changed, not only to some more rational appellation, but also to one which would compel more public attention to the necessity for carefulness, warmth, and rest for those who fall its victims. Medical men are agreed, we believe, that the disease specially affects the nerve centres, while the high temperature during the illness, and the intense depression subsequently, shows that it belongs to the fever group. It would, therefore, we believe, tend to make patients much more careful, would, therefore, save innumerable lives, and would at least remove a most misleading and inaccurate designation, if the present epidemic were, in future, called by some such name as Nerve Fever.

"WE NEVER PRESCRIBE."

SUCH is the announcement made, in large type, in *The Hospital* last week; and considering that its Editor is an official of the Stock Exchange, we cannot but congratulate the public upon his thoughtful moderation in this matter. The paragraph throws a vivid side-light upon the class of persons who read our contemporary, for it mentions that they "write long dissertations on their various diseases," and that one correspondent wishes to know "if it is injurious to eat small pieces of coal," and goes on to say that a person who has done so has lately "looked rather pale." We are well aware how largely our contemporary circulates amongst the out-patients of Hospitals, but it is amusing that their craving for prescriptions should be so intense. We have not forgotten how our contem-

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porary described a Nurse as "blowing violently down a tracheotomy tube, to clear it of mucus; but even that example of dangerous ignorance has now been outmatched. On the same sheet on which prescribing is modestly disclaimed, *The Hospital* this week prescribes as follows: "*A Pro.—To pour methylated spirits into your shoes when your feet are very bad gives immediate relief.*" The italics are ours. A better instance of stark ignorance, and of the dangers to the public of quack medical advice, could hardly be conceived; for all Trained Nurses will know that to carry out our contemporary's prescription, and saturate shoes and stockings with an evaporating fluid might cause most dangerous illness and even loss of life.

FEVER NURSING.

THERE is a great want to be supplied in the curriculum of a Nurse's training. While general medical and surgical Nursing has become a carefully-taught science; while women's, children's, eye, and lying-in Hospitals are every day improving the special knowledge of Nurses in gynæcological, infantile, ophthalmic, and obstetric cases, the importance of Fever Nursing has, to a large extent, been overlooked. It has been too much the custom for anyone who has had a good general training to imagine that she was quite competent to attend a Fever patient, and many Fever Hospitals have encouraged the belief by employing women who have had no previous experience of Nursing, as workers in their Wards. During the last few years great improvements have taken place, but further advances are still imperatively needed. We would urge the Committees of all Fever Hospitals to make their Institutions Special Training Schools for Nurses. If they affiliated for the purpose with one or more general Hospitals in their district, they could easily obtain a constant succession of trained and unpaid Probationers for the Wards, and from the best of these, by paying enhanced salaries, could doubtless maintain an ample supply of excellent Staff Nurses and Sisters. The advantages of such a system would be manifest and manifold. The *kudos* of Fever Hospitals would be immeasurably raised, their sick would obtain much better and more skilled attention, at less cost, than, at present, rules. Nurses would obtain invaluable knowledge, and would be willing, in return, to give, say six months' service, without payment. And they would find the percentage of illness amongst themselves much less frequent than is generally supposed. Finally, the public would gain much in the increased and special skill of their attendants, for it is well known, now, how many so-called Fever Nurses have never been inside an infectious Hospital in their lives.

DOCTOR: "Have you followed my advice and walked daily to improve the circulation of your blood?" Fat Man: "No; you see I have no time for walking, but every day after eating I have lain on the sofa for a couple of hours and kicked my legs in the air."

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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)