

conclusion, therefore, is irrefutable, that the Nurses must be cruelly and utterly overworked, seeing that more than one healthy strong woman out of every ten breaks down under the stress. We say, as we have said before, that it is a crying evil and scandal that the Committee of the London Hospital should permit such a state of affairs to continue. But the Lords' Committee, once more, while tenderly avoiding all reference to any particular Hospital, make recommendations which the evidence shows must be meant mainly to apply to the London. They say that they "*consider that eight hours work, exclusive of the time for meals, is, as a rule, as much as should be required from Nurses in these Hospitals,*" that "*Nurses in the wards should not have their duties increased by doing menial work,*" and that "*the period of holiday should not be less than three weeks.*"

In short, the Select Committee has practically found a verdict of guilty against the London Hospital. The vital question now remains to be answered: Will the Committee of the London Hospital make the reforms which the Select Committee consider to be absolutely necessary?

SCIENTIFIC CHARITY.

WE are informed that considerable dissatisfaction is felt by various Hospital Secretaries concerning the proceedings connected with the publication of "Suffering London." As our readers will remember, this was, in the words of its promoters, an "Easter Egg"—which was hatched at Whitsuntide—in less stilted English, a book written by a distinguished author with the avowed and kindly intention of arousing public interest in the Metropolitan Hospitals. It was, however, published under unhappy auspices, because it became known to the editors of London papers, who are not entirely devoid of shrewdness, that arrangements had been made by certain Hospital Secretaries for a number of letters to be written to them, at the rate of so many per day, concerning this book, as though these were the impromptu outpourings of a public passionately interested in the welfare of Hospitals. The scheme, therefore, merely aroused some annoyance and a considerable amount of ridicule, and it is generally supposed that it has been a complete fiasco. Several correspondents express a desire, however, that the accounts relating to this book should be audited and published, showing precisely how much was spent in its production, how much has been received from its sale, and how the balance has been divided. We cannot but think that the promoters, who have also acted as publishers of this book, would do well at their earliest possible opportunity to supply this information, and render it, as it were, to the press and to the public, duly audited accounts of their stewardship.

Cocoa "Gruel."—Many cocoas now sold are so adulterated with farinaceous starchy matter, that they disagree with many; causing eructation, "fullness," and consequent indigestion. To such as have found this the case, **De Jong's Cocoa** is strongly recommended as most easily digested and ten times more nutritious. For samples—14, St. Mary Axe, E.C.

Obstetric Nursing.

— BY OBSTETRICA, M.R.B.N.A. —

PART II.—INFANTILE.

CHAPTER VIII.—INFANTILE AILMENTS.

(Continued from page 592.)

At their completion, this Course of Lectures will be published as one of the Series of "Nursing Record Text Books and Manuals."

IT is a sorrowful reflection that disease follows so closely upon the wake of birth, that the tender infant often has a struggle for existence on the very threshold of the house of Life. It is the object of this chapter to touch briefly upon those ailments of early infancy that fall within the range of Obstetric Nursing.

Convulsions—May be due: 1st, to lesions caused by parturition solely; 2nd, to traumatic injuries during delivery; 3rd, to congenital brain disease such as hydrocephalus; to trismus nascentium—the familiar "nine-day fits," so called for generations from the fact of their occurring within that period of existence. The seizures are somewhat tetanic in character, the locked jaw, the clenched hands, and muscular rigidity being some of the symptoms. This singular infantile disease has been attributed by some medical writers to extrinsic rather than intrinsic causes, such as blood-poisoning from foul atmospheric conditions and surroundings.

It has been observed that in the Arctic regions, where, for the greater part of the year, the inhabitants live in underground dwellings in which, from the want of ventilation, the atmosphere becomes at once overheated and impure, the mortality from trismus is appallingly high. Nearer home we know that the polluted atmosphere of the overcrowded tenements of the slums of great cities is intensely inimical to infantile life, and that "fits" are its most frequent ending.

The aggregation of parturient women in the large Continental Maternity Hospitals, and in our Workhouse Infirmaries, before the use of antiseptics was general, is and was unfavourable to infant life and health; an erysipelatous inflammation of the umbilical eschar being by no means infrequent, leading to convulsions from blood-poisoning, due also to foul air, and terminating fatally.

All thoughtful workers in Midwifery cannot fail from study, observation and experience, to appreciate the immense hygienic advantage of "isolation"

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[next page](#)