

pital with, say, 40 beds, is in many respects better and more complete—because more practical and less theoretical—than her sister would receive in a large Metropolitan Hospital to which a flourishing Medical School is attached. There are other aspects of the question to which we cannot, at present, refer; but we have, probably, said sufficient to give some ground for the contention that, so far as the practical efficiency of the pupils is concerned, a Medical College and a Nurse-Training School, attached to the same Hospital, may be mutually detrimental to each other.

CRINOLINES AS—RELIEVING OFFICERS!

SOME people have no sense of humour! Of these is one, C. FOWLER, who writes to the *Daily Chronicle* to plead for the ugly, selfish, dangerous and too stupid Crinoline. "The re-introduction of the crinoline," says this sage one, "means employment to thousands who are now unable to obtain it." It is certainly a new light that is shining on the mission of a hooped petticoat when we are informed that it will provide a solution of the unemployed problem. But alas! for the champion of inflated skirts, this is not so; for the change of fashion produces little extension of the numbers actually employed in producing materials to meet the new demand. When artificial flowers are very much worn, plume and ornament makers are not so busy; and when gimp and bead-trimmings are to the fore, ribbon and velvet are quiet and depressed; the swinging of the pendulum of changing fashion means the transference of employment rather than the increase of the numbers employed. In the case of crinolines, the people who were making something else yesterday will be making these most foolish things to-morrow—that is all; and where the gain to the unemployed comes in, except to the manufacturers of the steel, it is hard to say. But even were the production of a dangerous and not-decent article of dress a gain to the unemployed, we have no right to such gain; and England must have reached the *reductio ad absurdum* if the only work we can find for the unemployed is the manufacture of something that ought neither to be worn nor made.

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Dispensing for Nurses.

BY C. J. S. THOMPSON.

Author of "The Best Thing to Do," etc., etc.

— PART I. —

**I**NTRODUCTION.—The art of dispensing consists in the compounding of medical prescriptions in a proper and scientific manner.

Practical instruction and experience are absolutely necessary to become a proficient and competent dispenser; therefore the student must not expect to master an art which is by no means easy to acquire, from a mere word description of its various operations.

Besides the technical and manipulative difficulties to overcome, some knowledge of the structure and chemical composition of the medicinal agents employed is essential, and of those sciences such as chemistry, pharmacology, and botany, which bear on the art.

A familiarity with the appearance of the drugs and chemicals used in medicine, their preparations and doses, is also of importance. As this little work is intended for the instruction of those who have no previous knowledge of the subject, we shall endeavour throughout to avoid using technical terms as far as possible.

Dispensing presents no special difficulties which a woman by study and attention should not be able to overcome, and the discipline of the nurse's training should render her specially adapted to its practice. Every nurse should know something of drugs and their action, and a knowledge of the composition of the medicinal agents she so often handles cannot fail to be of great assistance, and add to the interest of her calling.

The position of the dispenser is one of great responsibility, and this we would impress on every student of the art on whose accuracy a human life may depend. It demands in its exercise

I. Undivided care and attention,

II. Scrupulous accuracy,

and these important principles must ever be

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