

## Inventions, Preparations, &amp;c.

## DISINFECTION.

This is one of the most important measures for the prevention of disease which modern medical science insists upon, and it is one at the same time, especially so far as bedding, clothing, etc., are concerned, which it is for obvious reasons impossible to carry out effectively in private houses. We have, ourselves, employed Messrs. Armfield & Sons, of Lower Belgrave Street, S.W., to disinfect such articles. This firm makes a speciality of the work, subjecting infected goods to high pressure steam, and we have found their work efficiently and carefully performed at a moderate cost.

## FOOD FOR DIABETICS.

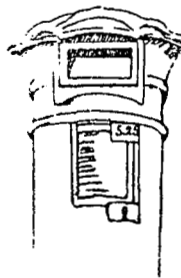
Messrs. Callard and Co., of 65, Regent Street, have attained a well-deserved reputation for their biscuits and gluten bread and ivory jelly. These preparations are not only useful for diabetics, but inasmuch as they are freed from starchy and saccharine substances, they are also of much benefit in cases of obesity or dyspepsia in which the elimination of these articles from the dietary is all important. They have adopted the wise and useful principle of supplying all their goods direct from their manufacturing factories, so that they can guarantee the freshness and quality of everything they send out. And we understand that they now despatch regular consignments to invalids in nearly every part of the country. The samples which we have seen and tested are not only free from sugar, but are very appetizing and nourishing, while the prices compare favourably with those charged for similar preparations by other firms.

## JONKOPING'S MATCHES.

It is claimed that these are the most perfect matches manufactured, seeing that the ingredients are entirely harmless, that they are altogether free from smell, that the matches ignite only on the box, that the burnt portion does not drop off, neither do the matches glow after the flame has been extinguished. The prices certainly are extremely moderate, which to large consumers, especially in Hospitals and Charitable Institutions, is a matter of considerable moment.

## ITALIAN WINES.

Now-a-days, when so many people take natural Italian wine, and when they are so largely recommended to patients, it is well to know of a firm which makes a speciality of the importation of these goods. Beste & Co., Limited, of 1, Southampton Street, Strand, supply nearly every brand of Tuscan, Neapolitan, Piedmontese, and Sicilian wines, and so far as our experience goes, these are all of excellent quality, and pure natural wines; while, compared with the prices charged by other firms, they are certainly of very moderate cost.



## Letters to the Editor.

(Notes, Queries, &amp;c.)

*Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

## PRIVATE NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I am quite in sympathy with your correspondent, "Private Nurse," as regards the recreation of private Nurses, for I also would have liked to hear at Miss Stewart's lecture when and how they should get their rest and recreation. My experience of private Nursing led me to suppose that I was exceptional in wanting either. In several houses I was not expected to have any food from 8 p.m., when I had my evening meal "before going on night duty," till 10 or 11 o'clock the next day, unless it might be some wine or brandy, which for very obvious reasons I never touched. Again, on going to a new case, say at 10 o'clock in the morning, from that time till 12 o'clock or later on the following day, I found that I could not leave the patient's room; and, on one occasion, on asking for some one to relieve me, so that I could get necessary food and rest, was told by the lady of the house that she had sent for a *trained Nurse*, and when I mildly remarked that I was *trained*, she said she understood that by having a trained Nurse it meant that she would be trained to go without sleep, and that it was impossible for her to attend to the patient herself, and there was no one else in the house to do it for me. In another house, where I worked for a month, I was allowed out of the patient's room for exactly seven hours each day of 24 hours, and when in the room was never allowed to sit down, as it was considered necessary for me to be constantly employed in doing something for the patient—if there was nothing else, she must be rubbed for hours both night and day. Many more instances of this kind could be given, but this will show how exacting people are with Institution Nurses; and if a Nurse does not comply with every request, they return her with a bad report, or a letter of complaint to the authorities by whom she is sent. Besides this, when, as is often done in Institutions, a Nurse is sent from one case to another without time to get a change of linen, or even take her box off the cab, I fail to see where one can find time for recreation of any sort or kind, even an hour's walk a day, which is usually allowed for in the Nurse's rules; but theatres, lectures, picture galleries, or even a book is generally out of the question, if there is such a thing in the house to be read. In those houses where one has reasonable people to deal with, things are totally different, but even there, one is generally employed by the patient's friends to do odds and ends of things for them, when the patient's wants are all supplied. And yet, under any and all circumstances, the Nurse must always be ready with a cheery word for the whole household, let her be ever so worn out herself. I should be glad to hear how other Nurses manage who are in private Nursing, and have been for many years; for rest and change they must get, but how and when is the question. I think I must have been singularly unfortunate, when comparing notes with other Nurses, who tell me they are so tired for *want* of work. But in spite of the work, I would not have been without my experience, for I spent many happy months and made some good friends in private Nursing. I consider that in all Institutions, when a Nurse returns from a case, she should be allowed to have 24 hours off duty, should she require it, so that she may have complete rest and change, and after very trying cases, more than this. This is, I believe, one of the chief reasons why Nurses leave their Hospital Nursing Homes to

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)