

intercessions of cool weather, still the reason for the typhoid outbreak is not difficult to find. All the towns and cities, large and small, in Victoria, have surface drainage, and the disposal of household and *hospital nightsoil*, is too awful to contemplate, with its natural results. In matters of sanitation there is not only much, but *everything* in the shape of improvement to be wished for. Then, again, many of the dairies are kept in the dirtiest condition. So much so, that those who have seen some of them can only wonder that we have had any respite at all from fever.

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In the General Hospitals every available medical bed is being given to the fever cases, as many as between twenty and thirty being in one ward. The Nurses are feeling much the extra strain; and more especially in Hospitals, where the number of Nurses is not at all sufficient in proportion to the work required of them. Urgent cases of typhoid have to leave the doors of both "The Melbourne" and Alfred Hospitals, being sorrowfully refused for lack of room and funds. The finances of "The Alfred" having improved, twelve of the beds which were closed last April, have been re-opened.

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One great boon the Nurses of "The Alfred" enjoy, which their less fortunate fellow-workers have not, in the other Hospitals, namely, the extensive garden and well-wooded grounds, where, when too tired to go out for fresh air, they can sit and drink it in, for they are not more than a mile from the sea.

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The Board of Health has determined to put a stop to the offensive and insanitary practice of scavenging contractors of depositing nightsoil near *dwelling houses* within municipal boundaries or on *dairy farms*. Several municipal contractors have already been fined, and prosecutions have been authorised in the shires of Heidelberg, Templestowe and Whittlesea, were the Councils have either declined to proceed against their contractors, or have not replied to the Board's request that they should do so. These prosecutions will be based on the charge that nightsoil has been deposited on dairy farms adjacent to watercourses, which are liable to be polluted by soakage from the depôts.

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Mr. McCarthy, health officer at Footscray, has sent a sensational report to the Board of Health on the character of the Yan Yean water consumed in certain quarters of that borough. An outbreak of typhoid led him to make inquiries which showed that the Yan Yean in the vicinity of the affected area was simply horrible, the amount of solid filth being about one-third to the bottle. He had no hesitation in saying that the filth was sewage, and finding no other cause for the outbreak of the disease attributes it to the water. He recommends that the education department should provide filtered taps at the local state schools, and advises the local Council to call the attention of the Metropolitan Board of Works to the necessity of more frequently flushing the smaller water mains."

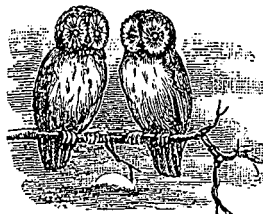
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THE Annual Meeting of the National and Metropolitan Nursing Association, for providing Nurses for the sick poor in their own homes, was held at Grosvenor House on Saturday. A satisfactory report was presented, but we regret to find that, owing to the value now placed on the services of trained District Nurses, the supply does not keep pace with the demand. We would venture to suggest that higher salaries should be paid, and skilled workers would, doubtless, then be forthcoming.

Matrons in Council.

WHAT IS A TRAINED NURSE?

For what length of time should a Probationer be trained in the wards of a Hospital, and how should that training be organised in order to fit her to hold every position in the profession?



WE have received several important communications concerning the letter which appeared in this column, last week, suggesting the formation of a consultative body of Hospital Matrons. The idea has been mooted and discussed before, but from the tenour of various letters from influential correspondents, we gather that there is a somewhat general feeling that the time has arrived when such a society could be constituted with benefit to the profession of Nursing. By request, therefore, we propose, for a few weeks, to suspend the present discussions, which are taking place in this column, and to devote the space to the publication of our readers' views upon the following question:—Is the formation of a Matrons' Council desirable, and, if so, what should be its programme of work? We may remind our readers that an American Society of Hospital Matrons has recently been formed, and has held a meeting at which various important and interesting papers were read and discussed. There is certainly a want, at present, for union and united action amongst Matrons in the settlement of the various problems affecting the training and status of Nurses, which press for solution. Briefly to sum up the opinions expressed by our correspondents upon the question, which has been discussed during the past few weeks, there appears to be practically a unanimity of judgment that the three years' standard of training in the wards of a Hospital has now become a necessity for those who desire to be considered as "thoroughly-trained Nurses." As we hope to show in an early issue of this journal, this standard is being so widely adopted at all the important Hospitals in this country that there are now comparatively few of any standing which enforce a lower term of training.

USE JONES' PATENT FLOUR
FOR PASTRY & CAKES

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