

But it is not only to the Rhymes that I should like to draw the reader's attention, it is also to the wonderfully accurate, and yet truly poetic, descriptions of the growth and development of the Tiny Woman herself. The Heiress of the Ages as her father calls her in his delight—

"The 'golden ephelant' is unquestionably of early English origin. Perpend: we in our degeneracy say 'milk,' she preserves the Anglo-Saxon 'meolc.' . . . Similarly a 'wheel' is a 'hyéol' But, indeed, she is more A.-S. than the Anglo-Saxons themselves. All her verbs end in 'en' even 'I am en.'"

Mr. Canton, throughout this delicate study of baby-life, shows acute observation of the idiosyncrasies of infants. I cannot refrain from one more quotation shewing the depth of his observation expressed in most poetical prose:—

"Accept for future use this shrewd discovery from my experience. When a baby is restless and fretful, *hold its hands!* That steadies it. It is not used to the speed at which the earth revolves, and the solar system whirls towards the starry aspect of Hercules (half a million miles a day), or, it may be, that coming out of the vortex of atoms it is sub-conscious of some sense of falling through the void. The gigantic paternal hands close round the warm, soft, twitching fists, soft as grass, and strong as the eternal hills."

What a lovely description of a baby's tiny hands are contained in that short line: "Those warm, soft, twitching fists!" Later on, Mr Canton develops this theme into a hymn of which I give the first verse only:—

"Hold Thou my hands!
In grief and joy, in hope and fear,
Lord let me *feel* that Thou art near;
Hold Thou my hands!"

I have purposely avoided dwelling upon the story of the Unseen with which the life of this little child is connected. The two short papers that end the book are entitled "An Unknown Child Poem" and "At a Wayside Station." The first reminds me of the vague, yet poetically suggestive writings of Jean Paul Richter, a writer who, alas! is far too little known in England (chiefly for the reason that the effort to translate him, as I know by experience, is likely to produce softening of the brain in any conscientious translator). The second study, "At a Wayside Station," is *ludicrously pathetic*; and that is not a paradox, for truly we are never so near tears as when we have laughed with our reason and imagination as well as with our lips. The sources of all emotion lie near together, and but a thin line separates the one from the other. The Author himself says of this tale—

"The humour of the incident had mastered me;
The pathos of it now stared me in the face."

We cannot but look forward with eager expectation to Mr. William Canton's next publication, and trust that it will not disappoint us in our belief in the originality and delicacy of his poetic muse.

A. M. G.

Inventions, Preparations, &c.

VIN NOURRY.

A useful pamphlet on the assimilation of Iodine, written by Dr. A. Baronnet, has been translated into English, and deserves attention. It chiefly

refers to the advantages of the combination of iodine and tannin for the treatment, especially of children. It is a well known fact that children find the ordinary preparation so extremely nasty that they cannot be persuaded to take it. The Vin Nourry is said to contain iodine in combination with tannin, and analytical experiments prove that the assertion is quite correct, the proportion being one part of the former to two of the latter. This is dissolved in pure Malaga wine, and, therefore, a preparation has been obtained which is not only of stable constitution, of constant composition, but which is most palatable and efficacious. In strumous children its benefits have been most marked, and it is probably for these, and for similar cases in which the exhibition of iodine in some form is necessary, that the benefits of this new preparation will be especially great. It can be obtained, we believe, direct from the importer, F. Comar & Son, of 64, Holborn Viaduct, E.C.

INVALID COUCHES.

Messrs. Robinson & Sons, of Ilkley, have attained such a world-wide name for their couches that it seems almost unnecessary to say a word in their praise; but as other makers are now attempting to imitate their chairs and other appliances, it is only fair that attention should be drawn to the fact of the priority of claim and excellent workmanship combined with the most reasonable price of Messrs. Robinsons and Sons' manufactures. Their bed tables and bed rests will also be found very valuable appliances for the bed-ridden invalid.

PLASTIC PILLS.

Messrs. Duncan, Flockhart & Co., have submitted to us samples of several of their preparations. The "Plastic" Pills and Soluble Cachets deserve especial mention: the former are soft, easily moulded by the tongue and therefore more easily swallowed than the ordinary form, which so many patients find it almost impossible to get down. They are tasteless, moreover, and soluble. The cachets consist of thin envelopes of rice paper, in which may be placed any nauseous powder, and are more convenient and pleasant for patients than the ordinary wafer paper. To those of our readers who are unacquainted with the valuable preparations of this firm, we can confidently recommend them.

FOODS FOR DIABETICS.

Messrs. Van Abbott & Sons have for many years been recognized as specialists in the preparation of food for diabetics. They have recently added two important preparations to their list consisting of

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