

of the managers. It is with the methods suggested, in order to attain these objects, that we disagree, for the Association proposes, "in the first instance, to establish a training home at Leyton, to train the class of Nurse which we require, since such Nurses are at present unobtainable. They will be taught midwifery and monthly Nursing, the care and management of infants and young children, and the laws of health, besides receiving instruction in Cottage Nursing. These women, when trained, will be available to attend the sick and suffering in every parish. . . . Besides this, the Association proposes to teach practical Nursing to others who wish to receive such instruction. . . . By the above means, the benefits of skilled Nursing will be brought within the reach of the very poorest."

Now, it is unnecessary to point out to our readers that this scheme evidently emanates from ladies and gentlemen who are entirely ignorant of what Nursing is, or of the dangers which an ignorant Nurse can cause to the sick. In the first place, this training home at Leyton is to be established, and in this training home the Nurse is to be "taught Midwifery, Monthly Nursing, the care of infants and children, and the laws of health—whatever that may mean. And in addition to these small details, she is to receive "instruction in Cottage Nursing."

A training home in Leyton may, for all we can say to the contrary, be an excellent place to receive such vague instruction as this last sentence implies. But we have no hesitation whatever in saying that it is absolutely impossible for any woman to be efficiently taught midwifery, or monthly Nursing, or even the elements of such work in "a training home," nor in any place except a properly organized Hospital where lying-in women are attended to and cared for under the proper supervision of thoroughly experienced medical men and trained Nurses. In like manner, the care and management of sick children can only be taught and learnt by actual, daily, practical, experience in a properly organized and supervised children's ward. And we assert that such a ward would be an anomalous, if not a dangerous, addition to a Lying-in Hospital. But, even presuming that the promoters mean more than they say, and imply by a "training home," the duplicated Hospital we have mentioned, we furthermore affirm, and our readers will probably agree with us, that it is perfectly preposterous to assert that a person who has had such a limited education—good, bad, or indifferent—can be considered or described to be a "skilled Nurse."

Finally, it is impossible that "practical Nursing" could be taught in a training home, or, indeed, in any other place in which there are not actually sick people being constantly and practically nursed. We will continue the consideration of this subject next week.

ALIENS AND ANARCHISTS.

Lord Salisbury has proposed legislation, which, although novel as regards those whom it will affect, merely illustrates in national methods a principle which has for long been a conspicuous regulation in waste urban or rural districts, notified by the brief injunction, "No rubbish to be shot here." So Lord Salisbury desires to prevent the immigration of pauper aliens and of still more detrimental Anarchists into this country. Although his Bill has not been as warmly welcomed by the present Government as could be wished, it is fervently to be hoped that, within a measurable distance of time, its principle will have become embodied in an Act of Parliament. The thousands of pauper aliens, who, dirty and often diseased, are, to use an expressive Americanism, "dumped down" at our ports, have tended more, perhaps, than any other cause to perpetuate epidemics, to overcrowd our large towns, and to diminish the wages of labour. The Anarchists, on the other hand, have proved themselves a standing danger to every community, and unless the excellent suggestion of our contemporary, the *Medical Times*, be adopted, and all who are found preaching, as well as practising, incitements to outrage and murder, are treated with the cat-o'-nine-tails, there seems too much reason to fear that this country will continue to be the hot bed of plots against foreign and friendly Powers.

GERM PROOF DRESSES.

London has, for weeks, been convulsed to its depths by the controversy which has raged not only at popular places of entertainment but also in the Press, as to the respective merits of a bullet-proof coat invented by a German tailor, or an equally impregnable costume designed by an American gun-maker. Far be it from us to solve the knotty question as to the superiority of one over the other, or of both over the dozens of other imitations which have sprung up in London, or over the hundreds of other competitive designs which appear to be agitating the nervous systems of the inhabitants of various rural districts. They may all, and every one of them, be most perfect, but, at present, the chief result of the controversy appears to be merely a gigantic advertisement of a certain variety of entertainment, inasmuch as the majority of men and women are not likely to adorn themselves with this species of protective costume. It appears to us, however, that there would be some usefulness and considerable practical value to be obtained from a competition amongst inventors to produce a costume which would be germ-proof. When one reflects upon the indisputable fact that the spread of infectious diseases is assisted to an almost incredible extent not only by the carelessness of individuals suffering from those diseases, but also by the facility with which the infectious germs are conveyed from place to place from the infected to the healthy upon the material employed in the ordinary dresses and coats, it is not extravagant to think that science might easily provide a material which would act as a germicide, and so prevent more effectually than could be attained in any other manner, the conveyance of germs. If such germ-proof dresses could be supplied, preventive medicine would receive the most invaluable assistance it has obtained since the day on which antiseptics were introduced.

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