

instruct a Probationer in a preliminary course of scientific study. But once let us accept the principle, and the system will grow and become more complete. At the same time *practical instruction* should keep pace with theory, and much greater stress, I own, should be laid by modern Matrons, and accepted by modern Nurses, on *Cleanliness and Order*. I make a point of never accepting a Probationer who is not an *expert* needlewoman. It is extraordinary what a sure test this is of cleanliness, accuracy, patience, and manual skill.—Yours very truly,

“A MODERN MATRON.”

#### MATRONS UNDER THE POOR LAW.

MADAM,—As I have myself worked for nearly three years as Matron of a London Poor Law Infirmary, you will, perhaps, permit me to write a few lines, endorsing, from personal experience, the views expressed in your able editorial on the recent disturbance at the Lewisham Infirmary. As the matter is still *sub judice*, it would, of course, be manifestly unfair to comment on the details of the case; but the *legal* position of a Matron in a Poor Law Infirmary is so anomalous, that it is next to impossible for a conscientious Hospital-trained woman to remain within the prescribed limits. The Local Government Board are anxious to impress on Boards of Guardians the desirability of appointing ladies as their Matrons, who have received a thorough Hospital training, and are capable of carrying out the usual duties of a Matron, including that exercise of judicious authority over the Nursing staff and female servants, which is usual in large and well-regulated Hospitals; yet they have worded the rules of a Workhouse Infirmary Matron so curiously, that she really holds all authority over her subordinates (?) on the sufferance of another official, who has the power of undermining her authority on any and every occasion, and to whom the Nursing and domestic staff can, and do, appeal against her decisions. I have known an Infirmary where the Nurses applied directly to the Medical Superintendent, as they knew the Matron would object, for permission to give a dance in the Infirmary. This request was granted, and the dance held in direct opposition to the Matron's wishes. She had no redress. It is a mere farce to consider the Matron a responsible official when her very rules order her not “to maintain discipline among the Nurses, etc.,” but “to assist the Medical Superintendent to maintain discipline, etc.” I have not the slightest hesitation in affirming that the despotic personal authority of the Medical Superintendent over Nurses in matters other than those medical and pertaining to the treatment of patients, is distinctly detrimental to a good, healthy tone in an Institution, and its exercise is undoubtedly irksome and uncongenial to the more manly amongst them.—Yours faithfully,

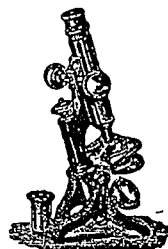
M. MOLLETT,

Matron Royal South Hants Infirmary, Southampton.

The Link Shell Truss Co., 171, Wardour Street, London, W., have a new truss, it is claimed that by this method of manufacture a truss is provided which will be more comfortable than the one in ordinary use and better able to adapt itself to the various movements of the body, especially if these are of a sudden character. The truss is fitted with a hip-joint regulator by means of which the pressure is increased or diminished as required and with a soft hollow shell pad perforated for ventilation. The Truss as thus completed is an efficient one.—*Lancet*, August 4th, 1894.

## Medical Matters.

### MILK STERILISATION.



During the last few months considerable attention has been directed to the sterilisation of milk, not only for the purpose of destroying any septic germs which the fluid may contain, but also because it has been found that considerable benefit results from thus treating the milk before it is administered in certain diseases. Of especial interest to Nurses will be the facts clearly brought out by a German observer, that, in the summer-diarrhoea of children, and especially of infants, which is known to be of so fatal a character, the most successful treatment consists in the restriction of the diet to sterilised milk; the disease being undoubtedly caused, to a very marked extent, by the action of microbes which have been introduced into the milk. It is insisted upon that the milk should be boiled in separate bottles, immediately corked, rapidly cooled, and kept thus closed from the air until it is given to the child, only sufficient for one meal being contained in each bottle. This is a practical illustration of the immense benefit derived from the progress of knowledge concerning bacteria; and it has been found that by this simple treatment alone many lives have been saved which would undoubtedly have been lost if only medicinal means had been employed.

### LYSIDIN.

This is the name of a new drug which has been recently used with great success in the treatment of gout. It appears to have a most powerful action in dissolving uric acid, and so bringing about the removal of that disagreeable product from the system. It has been given in doses varying from one to five grammes during the day, and patients afflicted with a gouty attack very rapidly improved under the treatment, whilst uric acid concretions distinctly disappeared while the drug was being administered.

### COMBINED FEVER.

As a well-proved general rule, human beings suffer, at the same time, from only one infectious fever. From time to time, interesting cases are recorded, however, in which two distinct zymotic diseases run their courses concurrently in the same patient, and we have, in these columns, recorded one or more of such cases. We may say, in passing, that we should be glad to receive from our readers

Reduction of Munson Typewriter prices from £21 to £12 12s., our Odell Typewriter reduced to 63s., particulars of both free.—LINK-SHELL TRUSS Co., Surgical Instrument Makers.

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