

## Our Russian Letter.

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

### BABY'S BATH.

St. Petersburg.

YOU have read of the American mode, and the English fashion, would you care to know how we manage baby's bath in Russia? Of the first bath I have had no experience, but babies of two or three months old are bathed in a manner which is, I believe, peculiar to this country.

The first point of difference is the bath itself—it is made of wood, is in fact simply hollowed out of a portion of the trunk of a tree, and is therefore round at the bottom. It is about five feet in length in all, though the hollowed part must be nearly two feet shorter, and is just wide enough to accommodate baby comfortably. A solid piece of wood is left at either end, this giving the necessary stability, and forming a most convenient shelf or table for holding soap, &c. The "carëta" as it is called, is placed upon four cross legs, making it a most convenient height for the nurse; these legs fold up upon each other, when they are not wanted, just like the legs of those tea-tray tables which were the fashion some years ago.

In this bath a comfortable bed is arranged for baby, made of hay (fresh of course every day), covered with a sheet or diaper and raised at one end for a pillow. Sometimes this bed is made of an old blanket cut down and folded to the proper thickness and shape. Then the water is added and the temperature regulated\*; next baby is undressed, and this is always done, not on nurse's knee but on her bed, the child being laid upon a large pillow—Russian pillows are beautifully soft and very large. When the child is undressed he is loosely wrapped in a flannel square, head and all, and laid in the bath.

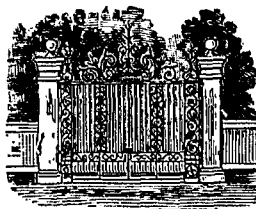
Bathing is not hurried over, rather the contrary, and baby loves it, he lies with his body almost covered by the water, and his head almost out of it, and it is not until he has been thoroughly wetted, flannel and all, and is quite accustomed to his position, that the washing begins; first the little face is washed, and then the head and body is soaped, and last of all he is lifted out of the water and held for a moment face downward, while a jugful of clean water, of the same temperature as the bath, is poured over him; then he is enveloped in towel and dry flannel, and again laid upon the pillow to be dried. When dry he is generally placed upon a second pillow, also on the bed, where his clothes lie ready arranged and warmed, and he lies there quietly on his back while the little petticoats, &c., are fastened on, and it is only when the nightdress is put over his head (for the bath usually takes place in the evening) that he is moved at all.

The idea of a metal tub is almost as terrible to a Russian nurse as the idea of undressing a child before the fire. To my mind the "carëta" is far preferable to the tub, and when I bathe a baby I always do it in the Russian fashion if possible, because it is less fatiguing for me, and certainly looks more comfortable for the little one, and I also agree with the Russian nurse in thinking there is always a draught by an open fire, although I disagree with her in thinking that a stove is a more healthy way of warming the bedrooms. Here, however, the hard frost makes stoves a necessity.

\*The temperature is 30 deg. Réaumur.

## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.



OUR readers are aware that we went to press last week immediately after the great triumph in the House of Commons of the passing of the second reading of the Women's Suffrage Bill, so that we had no time to comment adequately upon that most important fact.

It must, however, be understood that, according to Parliamentary custom, the passing of the second reading means that the House accepts the *principle* of a Bill, the details being left to be altered as may seem advisable in Committee.

On this occasion the voting showed that a majority, practically representing more than one quarter of the whole House of Commons, are in favour of the principle of granting to women the right to take that part in the control of the destinies of the Empire which has hitherto been so unjustly denied to them.

From this fact we immediately predicted that the Bill would advance this session beyond the second reading, although many women who were present with us on February 3rd in the Lobby of the House of Commons, expressed their fears that it would make no further progress. It is, therefore, highly significant that the restrictions which were proposed, with the object of delaying the entry of the Bill into Committee, were on Monday last ruled out of order by the Speaker, and the Bill safely entered upon its next stage. Owing to its shortness and simplicity, there is some hope, therefore, that this ordeal may be passed through in time to afford an opportunity for the third reading to be taken before Whitsuntide.

Sir Richard Temple, that veteran friend of the woman's cause, who is President of the Parliamentary Committee for Women's Suffrage, is appealing for more financial aid to prosecute the furtherance of the movement. Women could not commemorate the most glorious reign in English history more effectually than by subscribing towards a fund for the purpose of liberating their sex from the stigma of disenfranchisement. Let all subscribe for this just cause before helping any philanthropic scheme, however worthy.

Another woman's settlement is soon to be established in London, to be called The Lady Margaret Hall, and to be in connection with the Oxford College of that name; 129, Kennington Road has been secured for the purpose. The workers at the new settlement will not be confined to Lady Margaret students, but other women will be welcomed. These settlements have a most humanising influence upon their surroundings.

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