

strife and dissension caused by one member's predilection for a "snub" as opposed to a "Roman," or by a member's explanation to his spouse that he had been detained until the small hours by reason of the onerous work of the Engagement Committee.

A straw shows which way the wind blows, and this proposal does but demonstrate once more the fact that, for one reason and another, it is constantly proposed to take away from the matrons of hospitals that authority without which it is impossible for them to perform their duties efficiently. It is to the credit of the Stockton Hospital Committee that this suggestion met with little response. It has been proved over and over again that man is rarely a competent judge of the capacities of woman for work. Smartness, good looks, a taking manner, or a pretty bonnet, have often turned the scale in favour of a candidate for a post, when the appointment is made by men.

If hospital committees intend to select their nurses and domestic servants, we would suggest that they should depute one of their number to attend daily at their institutions. He might order the dinner, inspect the bread pan, and make out the list for the laundry, and the probationers might parade before him, that the set of their caps, and the suitability of their shoes, might be duly noted and commented upon. We fear the patients would hardly appreciate the type of young woman thus "selected."

MAGISTRATES' PERQUISITES.

Truth has lately been examining into the abuses connected with the fees for certifying lunatics, and has brought to light some scandals. In one case it is asserted that two magistrates on a Bench, each of whom had a son in the medical profession, mutually arranged that these gentlemen should be called in alternately when a lunatic had to be examined. It would, we think, simplify matters and be conducive to the dignity of the bench if a medical officer were appointed to perform these duties at a fixed salary, instead of the certifying of lunatics being regarded as a source of emolument, and a recognised perquisite, for the junior branches of the families of magistrates.

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A Guarantee of Purity.

Cow's Milk in Infant Feeding.*

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THE first year of childhood, often for purposes of study arbitrarily named the first nutrient period, presents to the student of medicine many complex, interesting, and important problems. To us as physicians is entrusted the important office of guiding the growth of the child as it passes through its developmental stages, that in its growth it may retain or acquire the priceless boon given mankind, namely, good health. As a factor in the growth and general well-being of the child, food occupies a most important position, and it seems appropriate, at this time, to present for your consideration the subject of cow's milk in infant feeding. The writer cannot hope to present an exhaustive treatise on such an extensive and varied topic, but rather to touch upon a few of the many difficulties with which we have to contend.

All authors agree that cow's milk, which is now universally accepted as the best substitute for maternal milk, must be modified to resemble more closely nature's product. A comparison of the analysis of cow's milk and woman's milk will demonstrate the difficulties to be overcome in arranging a diet of cow's milk for a young child. Leed's analyses give 4.01 fat and 2.06 albuminoids in woman's milk, and 3.75 fat and 3.42 albuminoids in cow's milk. Other observers give even a higher percentage of albuminoids in cow's milk.

The difficulty, outside of the laboratory, is to dilute the proteids, and still retain the fats at a proper standard compared with woman's milk. The acid reaction of cow's milk also presents difficulties. Woman's milk is almost uniformly alkaline. If not, it should not be used (Rotch). Cow's milk, as usually received twenty-four hours after milking, is quite acid, and I believe just as much is due to this fact as to the proportion of proteids present. Milk, as drawn from the breast by the child, is sterile. The nicety of mechanism of the breast in performing its function allows no possibility of fermentation before the milk enters the infant's mouth, and as the gland collapses as it is gradually emptied, a vacuum

* Read at the semi-annual meeting of the Hartford County Medical Association, Hartford, Conn., April 21st, 1897.

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