

of the profession. These great attractions are supplemented by stalls at which refreshments may be had on the same easy terms as the medicine.

"It is difficult for medical practitioners to compete with such terms as these. And Sir Henry Burdett might have found in this circumstance an explanation of the fact that whole classes, whose relief was never contemplated by the original founders of our hospital system, take advantage of it. But, as if this were not enough, he must advance the theory that private practitioners are inefficient. This is really too much for the greatly enduring practitioners, who are first educated in the hospitals, and then find themselves in sharp competition with them on such unequal terms. The profession might have expected more justice at the hands of one who professes to know so much about it. Has he any doubt that medical men could fill their consulting rooms by the same methods that fill out-patient rooms? Dr. Ward Cousins happily and forcibly vindicated the medical profession, more highly educated and efficient than it ever was, from this unjust suggestion, as he had no difficulty in doing. But it will become a serious question, if these are really Sir Henry Burdett's views, whether medical men should be asked to appear on the same platform with him again for the promotion of hospital reform.

"A correspondent calls attention to another suggestion which seems to be equally dangerous. Sir Henry Burdett is enamoured of small subscriptions and small payments to hospitals, which seem to be associated in his mind with some claim on the part of those making them to medical attention at hospitals. The association of these things—a personal claim on hospitals for attention and assistance, prior to that of poverty and sickness, and apart from considerations of the social circumstances, or the nature of the illness of those making petty periodical payments—is enough to transform hospitals, from being the noblest institutions, to being amongst the meanest, and to divert the streams of that public benevolence on which they must always depend. We shall be glad to hear that in this construction of his words we and our correspondent are wrong. But there is much in current events, and in the abuse of hospitals, which makes us fear that Sir Henry Burdett, with that happy conviction of his own insight into subjects which are not his proper study,

is prepared to try experiments on our great hospitals, and our great profession which are unwarrantable."

## Medical Matters.

### INFANT FEEDING.



ONE of the greatest difficulties in the treatment of infants is that of a proper dietary. It is a well-known fact that the great majority of infantile deaths are caused by improper food, and perhaps this has been exemplified in the most marked manner in the Paris Hospitals, where the mortality formerly was stupendous when the children were fed on ordinary cow's milk. The change to sterilized milk produced an immediate and remarkable diminution in the death-rate. In other countries, it has been equally found that the production of an absolutely pure and natural food is the best preventative of infantile disorders, and, therefore, deaths. A great difficulty has been that many children are unable to digest cow's milk, chiefly, perhaps, for the reason that it contains four times the amount of casein that human milk possesses, the result being that curds are formed in too large a quantity for the infant to digest. The ordinary method is to dilute the cow's milk, and thus to diminish the proportion of casein, but, in many instances, the result is to disturb the digestive powers of the child. Amongst other improvements, which have consequently been adopted, it has been found that a small quantity of albumen added to cow's milk not only renders the latter more nutritious, but also more easily digestible by infants. In Germany, very extensive trials have recently been made with ordinary cow's milk diluted with an equal quantity of water and with white of egg added to it; and it is stated that in many instances where children were unable to take the milk before, with this addition it has proved successful and invaluable. Lately, the use of Somatose has been largely tried in these cases in America. This is a yellowish powder prepared from meat, and consists chiefly of albumen and salts. It has been found that this powder is easily dissolved in water, and that if it is added to cow's milk the casein curdles in a finely divided condition just as it does in human milk, and not in large indigestible curds as is usual in cow's

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