

dietary of children with whom the ordinary milk does not agree, or whom it does not sufficiently nourish. For invalids and dyspeptics the Peptonized milk is proving very useful, whilst the sterilized cream of the Company has given valuable assistance in the treatment of consumption and other wasting diseases. Finally, the sterilized butter milk has proved most useful in the treatment of diabetes, and the Koumiss in cases of persistent vomiting due to gastric irritation. In brief, the "Sap" brands of milk, as they are generically termed, would appear to have a successful and useful career before them, and so confirm the wisdom of recognising that milk is the most natural and most valuable food for both infants and invalids.

VACCINATION.

CONSIDERABLE curiosity is felt in the medical profession as to the probable results of the new Vaccination Acts. The differences between the present and former legislation appear on the surface to be that there is less compulsion now provided for, and a greater regard for the feelings of those who object to vaccination on conscientious grounds. But, in practice, it is believed by many medical men that it will be found that the provisions of the new Act will be more effectual than those of the older measures. The responsibility will be taken out of the hands of Boards of Guardians elected by popular vote, and therefore more or less subject to pressure from those who oppose vaccination, and placed under the control of the local Health Authority, whose object it will be to protect the public, independently of any prevalent popular feeling. The Royal Commission on Vaccination, although it sat for so many years, undoubtedly cleared away many misconceptions and strengthened the arguments employed in favour of vaccination; and it is believed that it effected equal good in drawing attention to the importance of using perfectly pure calf lymph for inoculation instead of the old-fashioned method of vaccinating from arm to arm. Raising the limit of age, also, will be a provision of great value, as many children under three months old are too weakly or too delicate to bear the inoculation with success, while, except in times of epidemic, such young infants are not likely to be exposed to any danger of infection. It is, therefore, earnestly hoped that a beneficent measure of public protection may in future be carried out without the friction and ill-feeling which it has hitherto aroused.

Nursing Politics.

THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

ON Tuesday, the 24th inst., the Bye-Laws as revised by Mr. Fardon (which were printed before he submitted them to the Meeting of the Executive Committee on May 6th) will be obediently passed, no doubt, by the majority of those members who will be present. Most self-respecting members will decline to attend another meeting of the Corporation to subject themselves to the injustice and insults they experienced on December 17th, when every letter addressed to the members by well-known matrons of the association was withheld, upon the suggestion of the chairman, Sir Dyce Duckworth, and the closure was moved by Sir James Crichton-Browne, immediately an attempt was made to discuss the new bye-law constituting the Executive Committee—the crux of the whole question in dispute between nurse members and the hon. officers.

It is interesting, therefore, in this connection to quote the following paragraph from the last issue of our "Official Organ" on Mrs. Coster's appointment as Nurse Hon. Secretary. "What is needed in addition is that many leaders in the nursing world who have not yet joined us should come forward at this time and heartily co-operate with the Nurse Hon. Secretary (the Matrons are aware that Mrs. Coster voted to deprive them of their ex-officio seats upon the Executive Committee which have been theirs for upwards of ten years) in the work of reconstituting the Association on a broad basis, free from all party spirit and exclusiveness. Little can be done in the way of progress, and permanent solid, good, unless the Matrons of the leading hospitals, under whom the majority of nurses are trained, will assist the Association at this juncture of affairs, with their judgment, influence, and experience, for the furtherance of aims which all have at heart."

In the old Bye-Laws, every recognised leader in the nursing world—that is, the Heads of the Royal Nursing Services, and the Matrons of every hospital containing more than two hundred beds, where a three years' course of nurse training was in force—*had ex-officio seats both on the Executive Committee and General Council* if they chose to accept them. This wise provision was made so that the most perfect independence might be afforded to these ladies—to vote as they chose *without fear of removal*—should their opinions be in opposition to those holding official power. This provision we consider "free from all party spirit and exclusiveness."

THE "re-constitution of the Association" as arranged by the new code of bye-laws drawn up

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