

was quietly shelved. The women inspectors were deprived of a large portion of the powers conferred upon them, and which were absolutely necessary to the due performance of their work; the superintending inspector no longer held office, but was reduced to the position of "Principal Lady," a name which Mrs. Tennant well remarks is suggestive of the comic opera. In short, the women were practically placed in a position of complete subordination to the men.

What is the reason for this complete re-organization of a department so recently organized? We agree with our contemporary, the *Daily Chronicle*. "The Home Secretary ought, in fairness, to say where the work of the women inspectors has been deficient. It is not enough for the manager to come before the curtain after the tragedy, and assure the audience that he had not intended to diminish the powers of the Principal Lady, or to interfere in any way with the functions of her subordinates. The Home Office may, for all we know, be paved with good intentions. But the country has not forgotten Bryant & May, or the Potteries, or the work-girls to whose hours and conditions there was scarcely given a thought till the women inspectors came." How is it that the women of England tolerate the insult and injustice to their sex, which is entailed in the withdrawal of the powers granted such a short time since to the women inspectors; and, secondly, are women content that all the real power over the great number of women who work in our factories should be in the hands of men. Have men in the past proved themselves so regardful of the interests of women that this can be regarded as a satisfactory arrangement? And lastly, even if the men inspectors regard their duties to the women in their care in the highest light, there are obviously many instances in which inspection by a woman inspector of women must be much more efficacious than that of a man. The lesson to be learnt, we think, from the latest insult to women is the one which cannot be too often repeated, that "the vote covers all," and that if women desire their interests properly safe-guarded, they must ensure for themselves Parliamentary representation. Women must therefore prove that although at present voteless, they can influence Parliamentary Elections very considerably, and must be prepared to give a *quid pro quo* to those who pledge themselves to support woman's suffrage.

Medical Matters.

ANTISEPTICS.



An interesting article has recently been published comparing the present popularity of coal tar products with the high esteem in which "tar water" was held by Bishop Berkeley and many others, more than a century ago. It is, perhaps, not generally realised what a large number of drugs are, at the present time, derived from the refuse matters of the gas-works. Many of these are undoubtedly of much value, but certainly some of them are fraught with considerable danger. Nature has provided not only in coal, but also in a large number of vegetables, antiseptics which have the power of checking fermentation in the process of digestion. Amongst these, may be mentioned Onions, Mustard and Horse-radish. And it is an interesting fact to notice that those foods, such as duck and pork, which are most difficult of digestion, and therefore most liable to undergo fermentative changes, are those with which common experience has made it customary to employ various aromatic herbs, which it is now known possess the power of aiding digestion, and of checking, or altogether preventing, those changes.

THE EFFECTS OF DRUGS.

ONE of the most important duties of a medical nurse is to observe and report the effects of the drugs which are administered, and there is no doubt that more attention should be paid to this matter, in the education of nurses, than is usually observed. For example, it should be widely known that some drugs have the effect of producing troublesome eruptions upon the skin; the bromides cause a pustular outbreak, resembling small boils, which are extremely irritating, and, in some cases, most disfiguring. Arsenic, again, in many patients, causes a dark papular eruption on the skin, which is followed after a few days by scaling, and a dark brown pigmentation is left. Nitrate of silver, again, when taken for any length of time, often causes a discolouration of the skin of the whole body, which is sometimes persistent. Unless we are mistaken, some years ago, this occurred in several cases which excited much public interest, and led to the introduction into novels of the period of a

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