

**Fry's**

300  
Gold Medals, &c.

PURE  
CONCENTRATED  
**Cocoa**

The MEDICAL PRESS, including the "LANCET," "BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL," and "MEDICAL ANNUAL," testifies to its **ABSOLUTE PURITY.**

THE  
**Nursing Record**

EVERY SATURDAY  
ONE PENNY.

AND

**The Hospital World.**

"QUI NON  
PROFICIT DEFICIT."

EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK.

No. 652.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1900.

VOL. XXV.

**Editorial.**

**THE GENERAL ELECTION.**

THERE is one all-absorbing topic at the present time in which the minds of all—men and women—are engaged; which fills our newspapers, and wherever we may go is almost the sole topic of conversation. To men it is of supreme importance, because it is the prerogative of manhood to exercise the suffrage. Women are also concerned in the issue of the coming struggle because they are conscious—passionately conscious—of their impotence to influence legislation. They pay taxes, in the same way that men do, but they may not say how these shall be expended. We engage in a costly war, costly not only in point of money—and it is the women upon whom the petty economies, and the pinch of poverty, will chiefly fall—but costly also in the life blood of the sons that they have borne. They may not express an opinion as to whether war shall be entered into. Their share is only to bear the burden of straitened households and bitter heart-break. Again they may believe that needless suffering has been endured by our brave troops, and needless deaths have occurred for want of a properly organized nursing ser-

vice. They can do nothing to remedy the evil and the country "muddles on." Further, men on all sides whether in trades or professions are organizing, and solidly and effectively demand the legislation which they see is needful in the interests of their calling, by means of pressure brought to bear upon their parliamentary representatives. Women have no parliamentary representatives, their professions lack cohesion, and urgent and necessary reforms must wait until the needs of the male electors are satisfied, and so the claims of women go for ever to the wall.

But beyond all this, women have a vital stake in a general election. Will the candidates returned be adverse or in favour of woman's suffrage? Are they, in short, to remain slaves or to become free women? Hysterical nonsense, do you say? My dear Sir, how would you feel if you were deprived of your vote? There would be nothing hysterical presumably about the howl which you would raise. Slaves—rubbish. Women have by far the best time of it, you say again. They are much more comfortably off than men. We never denied it. It is just those women who only care to be kept in personal comforts and luxuries by men who are our greatest enemies. But if you will just consider

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)