

From his own mother's breast—temple of the sacredest instincts and inspiration vouchsafed to mortals—the helpless little candidate for immortality and the Presidency, legal heir and literal orphan, was banished on the day of his undesired birth, and was taught to appease his instinctive longings and natural thirst by practising on a rubber make-believe.

Fed from a glass substitute for his maternal fount and moral birthright, he is compelled to cultivate a taste for all the patented baby foods that can be conjured up by the aid of malt, starch, and sulphuric acid. Later 'on he gets a pork rind and a pickle, pepper, salt, and spice, tobasco sauce and tomato catsup in nibbles and tidbits. How can he have a natural appetite, and what wonder that he is a confirmed dyspeptic before his second dentition, or that his stomach craves the biting prod of alcohol and his lips are uneasy except when they are puckered over a meerschaum mouthpiece or sickly cigarette?

If he has an instinct of any kind about him it is acquired and not hereditary, and imbues him with a neurotic mania for anything and everything but "natural" food and drink. Hot bouillon, black coffee, cayenne and cognac—nothing less stimulating than these can make an impression on his jaded gastric glands.

There are white blackbirds, and white blackberries, and white negroes, but "natural" appetites are scarcer than hens' teeth.

ATONIC DILATATION OF THE STOMACH.

Dr. Alexander Crombie, at the Congress of the Royal Institute of Public Health, ascribed the frequency and causes of atonic dilatation of the stomach in the tropics especially to the habit of over-drinking at meals, some 50 per cent. of the cases being attributable to this cause alone. Many men thought nothing of taking half a pint of soup, two pints of aerated water during an otherwise ample dinner, and another pint or two pints of the same within the next one and a-half hours. A similar distension of the stomach was practised, to a less degree perhaps, at breakfast and lunch, with the result that the organ in the course of a few years of such treatment accommodated its mechanical capacity to the demand made upon it. Digestion was at the same time delayed by this inordinate dilution of the gastric juice, and sooner or later the stomach failed to empty itself before it was again deluged in a similar manner. Other causes were typhoid and neurasthenia.

Appointments.

MATRON.

Miss Annie Phillips has been appointed Matron at the Royal Ear Hospital, London. She was trained at King's College Hospital, and has held the position of Sister at the National Orthopædic Hospital and at the Victoria Hospital for Children, Chelsea, and of Matron at the Tiverton Infirmary.

SISTERS.

Miss Ethel M. Swinton has been appointed Sister at the Royal Infirmary, Halifax. She received her training at the District Hospital, Walsall.

Miss Emily Homesfield has been appointed Sister at the General Hospital, Northampton. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Derby, and has held the position of Sister at the Children's Hospital, Birkenhead.

Miss E. M. Radcliffe has been appointed Sister of the Darlington Fever Hospital. She was trained at the Sunderland Infirmary and the Cardiff Sanatorium.

Miss Florence Eggins has been appointed Night Sister at the Queen Victoria Royal Infirmary, Preston. She was trained at the General Infirmary, Worcester, where she has held the position of Sister.

SUPERINTENDENT NURSES.

Miss Grace Mary Stewart has been appointed Superintendent Nurse at the Leavesden Asylum, King's Langley, Herts. She was trained at the District Infirmary, Ashton-under-Lyne, in which institution she has also held the position of Sister. She has had experience in mental nursing as Nurse at the Inverness Asylum, and has been a Night Superintendent and Sister at the Kent and Canterbury Asylum.

Miss Beatrice Garbutt has been appointed Superintendent Night Nurse at the Hackney Union Infirmary. She was trained at the Walsall and District Hospital, and has held appointments at the Lowestoft Hospital, and at Ancoats Hospital, Manchester.

STAFF NURSE.

Miss M. A. Hayles has been appointed Staff Nurse at the Isolation Hospital, East Malling. She was trained at Milton Hospital, Portsmouth, and has held the position of Charge Nurse at the City Fever Hospital, Exeter.

Real Conversations.

Lady Visitor (to Old Parishioner): "Well, Mr. Huggins, and has the nurse been to see you yet?"

Old Parishioner: "Yes, Mum, thank 'ee. She called once, an' done my foot more good than all the imprecations I've ever used."

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