

valuable in coal saved, the coke separated and used for iron furnaces, and the gas, purified of sulphur to a sufficient extent, should be supplied in large pipes for daily consumption, not for lighting, but for heating and cooking purposes. When that was done, and there were none but governmental and municipal reasons for not doing it, towns already well drained and otherwise kept healthy would become the healthiest and pleasantest places to live in. Sir Oliver Lodge also demonstrated the possibility of dispelling vapour fogs by electrolysis.

The chemists of the Department of Agriculture, U.S.A., have taken up the hygienic problems connected with commercial cold storage, says

the *National Hospital Record*. Data have been gathered showing the extent to which meats, eggs, and fruits are placed in storage houses and held for better prices, and it is found that in Washington it is the practice of dealers, commission men, and speculators to hold meats and poultry indefinitely for suitable prices. Some cases are known where poultry was held several years and then put on the market. There is a big business done in this line in what is known as "soupers," consisting of poor and unsaleable sheep and fowls, that are held and sold to restaurants for soup stock. Dr. Wiley is in charge of the experiment, and holds the view that meat and poultry, as kept under prevailing commercial practices, are not wholesome food. The processes are in some respects defective, the care and handling are reprehensible, the goods are liable to be placed on sale, and, if unsold, put back in storage, with the result that flavour and character are seriously injured. The experiment will include a trial of such meats on a class of subjects, and chemical analysis will be relied on to determine precisely the condition and suitability of the food thus treated. Dr. Wiley declares that chickens may be kept a year and be fit for food, but beyond this it is doubtful.

One of the most curious, and at present most inexplicable, adaptations of a natural remedy to a pest is to be found in the insect-catching grass of Cuba. This grass has been recently described by Mr. E. A. Schwarz. With the beginning of the rains in Cuba countless swarms of insects appear. At this time also a grass becomes common which catches multitudes of insects in its flowering spikes. They are caught day and night, and in incredible numbers. The spiny covering of the spikelets of the grass presents a bristling array to all comers. Wings of insects alighting or flying within reach are pierced and entangled by the minutely barbed spines and become inextricably matted. Sometimes an insect is caught by the leg. It is not only the weak insects that are caught. Numbers were caught of the Cuban luminous snapping beetle, which is so large and strong that it can be held in the hand with difficulty, and then only by naturalists who have presence of mind. Two insects, however, differ from the rest of the captives and are able to free themselves. One of them is an earwig; another resembles the ladybird. There seems to be no possible advantage to the grass in its capture of insects. It is itself a pest and grows in the rich soils along the edges of sugar-cane fields. It is found in the West Indies.

The New Zealand Midwives' Act.

The Midwives' Act for New Zealand, which we print below, became law on November 8th.

The Bill was introduced and promoted by the Premier, the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon, who is much to be congratulated, not only on the wisdom of its provisions, but also on the fact that, under Ministerial direction, the working of the Act is entrusted to the Department of the Inspector-General of Hospitals and Asylums, which carries out the provisions of the Nurses' Registration Act.

The work of nurses and midwives is so intimately connected that the adoption of any other course would have occasioned considerable inconvenience; but it is not easy for lay persons to understand the points involved, and Mr. Seddon merits the thanks of nurses, and the appreciation of the public, for his wisdom and foresight.

One criticism we should like to make—namely, that the certificate of the Central Midwives' Board should now be the one recognised by the Act in this country.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE BETTER TRAINING OF MIDWIVES, AND TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF MIDWIFERY.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Short Title.

1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Midwives' Act, 1904"; and it shall commence on the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and five.

Interpretation.

2. In this Act, if not inconsistent with the context—
 "Midwife" means a woman registered under this Act;
 "Minister" means the Minister of the Crown for the time being in charge of hospitals;
 "Prescribed" means prescribed by this Act or by regulations made thereunder;
 "Registrar" means the Inspector-General of Hospitals.

Register of Midwives.

3. The Registrar shall from time to time cause the names of all duly qualified midwives to be registered in a book to be kept by him at his office, called the "Register of Midwives."

Who Entitled to be Registered.

4. Every woman is entitled to be registered, on payment of the prescribed fee, who satisfies the Registrar that—

- (a) At the commencement of this Act she had been for at least three years in *bona-fide* practice as a midwife, and that she bears a good character: Provided that application for registration be made to the Registrar on or before the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and six; or
 (b) She holds a certificate in midwifery from any recognised training-school in midwifery, or from the Obstetrical Society in London, or such other certificate as may be approved by the Registrar; or
 (c) Holds a certificate under this Act.

Maternity Hospitals.

5. There shall be established in New Zealand one or more State Maternity Hospitals, where pupil nurses

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