

leave a slit of only 1 in. to 1½ in. in width, and thus check the quantity of cold air forced up the shaft, to make all that smoke burst almost instantly into long bright tongues of flame. At the same time the cold draught along the floor and the consequent icy cold feet will vanish, for the senseless ventilation of the lower stratum of the room will largely cease; the consumption of fuel will diminish and the room will become warmer. Twelve to fifteen square inches of flue opening will suffice for almost any fire-grate, and the ordinary provision is 126 square inches. In fact, the English chimney-builder is an extraordinary person. He will often seriously contend that the more twists and turns there are in a flue the better it will work; in short, he is often ignorant of the most elementary principles of his art. Mount to the top of St. Paul's and look at the amazing assemblage of chimney tops of every conceivable shape and kind. Then ascend some foreign church tower and search for a repetition of these cowls and smoke-curing devices. You will seek in vain for them, for there the flues are small (8 in. by 8 in. is an average size) and they are as straight as a dart! In Germany they generally run from the basement to the roof; at the attic level the sweep drops down a weighted round brush attached to a cord, while his assistant collects the soot at the cellar level. A sweep never enters the rooms at all! Probably the enormous chimney areas common here are due to the erroneous impression that the chimney serves as a ventilator, but we have seen that such is not the case, as far as the human occupant is concerned, and the changed condition of the fire in our grate will simply be due to bringing a few grains of common sense to bear upon a very simple question indeed.

Is there no fire-place and some kind of stove therefore absolutely necessary, or is economy of fuel a matter of strict importance, then the "King Sol" independent open fire-grates can be confidently recommended, since on the one hand they have all the radiating effect of the ordinary fire-place and on the other expose the least possible surface to the air. They are to be obtained through the Walton Trading Company, of 13, Featherstone Buildings, London, W.C., and are not only inexpensive, but when had in the enamelled quality very cleanly.

That these questions are of eminent importance a walk through any London street of lodging-houses will at once bring home to the observer's mind. It is only necessary to take a passing glance at the landladies as they stand at their doors haggling with the hucksters or gossiping with some neighbour. Ill-kempt, ill-dressed, perhaps dirty they are pretty sure to be, but there is something about them far worse even. There is not an atom of colour in their faces, they seem bloodless. They have a tired look about them as if life were an actual burden and their eyes are listless. To call them "living phantoms of death" would not paint

their appearance one whit too strongly. Why is all this? These poor women, in order to eke out their precarious existence, are practically condemned to live in their dark, dank basements, within a yard or two of a foul dust-bin, and often, far too often, sleep in the same pestiferous surroundings. Down into their wretched dens sinks every atom of carbonic acid gas generated in the teeming house, and this because of its naturally greater specific weight. From Monday morn to Sunday night they are ever breathing this abominable mixture, are living upon poison instead of upon God's limpid air; what wonder then that they present the terrible picture just portrayed?

(To be continued.)

### The Central Midwives' Board.

A special meeting of the Central Midwives' Board under the provisions of the Rules of Procedure on the proposed removal of a name from the Roll was held at 6, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, on Thursday, March 16th. Dr. Champneys presided.

The first business taken was the hearing of the following charges against Margaret Sulley, a certified midwife, No. 186 on the Midwives' Roll.

"(1) That on January 29th, 1905, at the Cardiff Police Court, you were convicted of letting lodgings to seamen without being licensed in accordance with the bye-laws of the Corporation of Cardiff in this respect, your application for a license for such purpose having been previously refused on the ground of your bad character."

"(2) That you have harboured women of immoral character."

Mrs. Sulley, who was present, admitted the conviction, but denied the charges. The Board, however, having considered the evidence before them considered the charges proved, and Mrs. Sulley was informed by the Chairman that her certificate would be retained and her name removed from the Roll.

A charge was next considered against Hannah Easter Clementson, a certified midwife, No. 1,431, as follows:—

"That on October 22nd, 1904, while in attendance on Sarah Tromans, of 5, Howe Street, Barrow-in-Furness, then in labour, you were drunk, and thereby incapable of performing your duties as a midwife."

Mrs. Clementson did not appear, but the Board considered the charge proved, and decided to remove her name from the Roll also, and to retain her certificate.

Dr. Champneys, in announcing this decision, said that the Board was of opinion that anybody who was in the habit of becoming intoxicated was dangerous as a midwife. It was also necessary to keep the Register as pure as possible and above reproach.

Miss Lucy Beatrice Clapham, M.B., who has held the position of Resident Obstetric Assistant and Obstetric Physician at the New Hospital for Women, was subsequently appointed Inspector under the Board.

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