

Lastly, it is much more likely to keep the wound aseptic than the old-fashioned sticky messes of carron-oil or ointment.

Its disadvantages are the yellow discolouration of the fingers of the nurse and of sheets, or anything that comes in contact with the picric. The former can, however, be easily removed by at once washing in warm water and ammonia, and the latter washes out easily.

It may be interesting to note that the use of picric in connection with burns was discovered by accident in a French chemical factory. A workman burnt his fingers and afterwards got them covered by picric. He found to his surprise the smart and pain seemed to vanish, and it is to this trivial accident that we owe this important dressing.

Two cases in which symptoms of poisoning by picric acid used as a dressing for burns occurred have been observed by Dr. Stuart Rose. In these cases the dressing was an ointment containing 7 per cent. of picric acid. About two days after the application the patients complained of weakness, vomiting, headache, and slight fever. The skin became yellow in colour and the hairs were also affected. The urine contained albumen, but neither blood nor bile pigment though it was dark brown in colour. No intoxication phenomena have been noted after the use of 1 per cent. solutions.

E. R.

#### Cold Comfort.

"The so-called india-rubber teat or 'comforter' is an invention of the devil," declared Sir William Broadbent at the council meeting of the Invalid Children's Aid Association.

"It may keep the baby quiet, but it is a fraud on the child and wastes the digestive secretions. It is a source of filth and disease, and picks up all sorts of impurities when it falls on a dirty floor."

#### Clean Milk.

"Clean" milk as opposed to "pasteurized" milk has reduced the death-rate of infants in Robeston, U.S.A., by one-half. The beginning of the enterprise was small—one station, a primitive pasteurizing plant, pamphlets of directions to give mothers, and scales to weigh the babies, the milk mixtures for those not under the care of a physician being based entirely on weight instead of age. For three years the milk was pasteurized. Then this unsatisfactory preparation of the city-delivered product was abandoned in favour of clean milk, and a central station, under the direction of a nurse and three assistants, was established on a farm. There the milking is supervised, and the clean milk put in sterile bottles and shipped in iced boxes to the city distributing stations. Milk prepared in this way has shown an average of less than 10,000 bacteria per cubic centimeter, less than a fiftieth of the number of organisms in the milk ordinarily sold in the city. This report is valuable in two respects. It shows what can be done with a small outlay of money in lowering the death-rate of infants, and it also demonstrates the possibilities of milk kept clean from the beginning as compared with pasteurizing contaminated milk.

## Nursing Echoes.

\* \* \* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



Matrons and secretaries of hospitals all over the country are issuing appeals for Christmas gifts, and no doubt the charitable will respond generously to the appeal. Gifts for the patients, especially toys for the children, Christmas cards, crackers, and festive fare, flowers and plants for ward decoration, in fact, anything good to play with, and to eat, which is new and clean, will be received with pleasure by Matrons and Sisters in our charitable institutions all over the Kingdom.

Truth's exhibition of dressed dolls and toys held at the Albert Hall this week showed that the readers of that journal have done their best to provide happiness for the children in the London Hospitals and infirmaries and also in the workhouses and schools. The dollies were just fascinating, we felt like playing with them ourselves.

The R.N.S. office, with its beautiful Board Room, certainly lends itself to festivity, and there was quite a gay and happy gathering of members and their friends on Saturday, when Sister Cartwright's arrangements were much appreciated. Sisters Lammowe, Boden, Tillott, and McEwen flitted about in their pretty uniforms looking after the creature comforts of members and guests. About thirty members were able to be present, and to judge from the buzz of conversation they appeared on the very best of terms. The next "At Home" will be held in February.

The Bishop of Kensington presided at the annual meeting of the Mothers' Aid Society in connection with Queen Charlotte's Hospital. The society assists with food, firing, clothing, &c., many of the poor women who are being attended in their confinements at their own homes by the midwives and nurses of the hospital. During the past year 535 patients have been thus assisted at an expenditure of nearly £200. The Bishop referred in eloquent terms to the great benefits the society conferred

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)