

Our Foreign Letter.

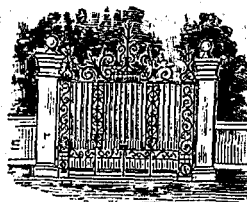
ORIENTAL DRAINAGE TUBES.

A very curious thing happened one day in the Hospital from which I am writing. A woman, who had travelled on a donkey a distance of about eight hours, arrived in a most exhausted condition. She was examined, and was found to be suffering from a sub-diaphragmatic abscess, with a temperature of 104 degs. An operation was necessary, but the patient had to be fed up and strengthened for several days before it was deemed advisable to operate. On the fifth day the abscess was opened under chloroform, a tube inserted to ensure free drainage, and the wound dressed with cyanide gauze, wool, and bandage. Still the temperature kept up, and the Doctor ordered the wound to be irrigated every day with a weak solution of iodine. One morning he came into the ward and, noticing that Zareefy's temperature was still up, said he would dress the wound. In irrigating it, a drain of about two inches in length came out into the receiver. The Doctor looked at the Nurse, and, smiling, said, "No wonder the temperature is up; you see, you must one day have removed the pin from the tube, and re-inserted it without one, and so it slipped into the wound." A fresh tube with a safety pin attached to it was used, and the Doctor said, "No doubt the temperature will go down now." It went down a little, but was 102.6. The next day the Nurse removed the drain with the pin, placed both carefully in a bowl of antiseptic lotion, and then irrigated the wound; to her surprise another tube came from the wound into the receiver. Zareefy watched the Nurse intently, looking very happy, and yet astonished at her bewildered expression, and then said, "El Kkaddish ya sittee." The Nurse had never heard the word before, but she saved the tube as she had done the previous day, and now had two of these drains lying in a bowl of lotion together. She thought they looked very soft, and suggested to the doctor that they did not look like rubber tubes. The following day was Sunday, and it was the Syrian doctor's day for the wards. He came to the ward where Zareefy was, and said he would like to see the wound dressed, so, the Nurse irrigated it as usual, and Zareefy looked up with a happy smile at the Doctor, who, she knew, could understand the dialect of her village. "Uchra wàhady," she exclaimed, "Can fee telàirty," and while the irrigation was going on out came a third tube. Zareefy clapped her hands and said, "Hallas" (finished), "that is all, there were three." The Syrian Doctor asked her what she meant, and she answered, "El Kkaddish, ya hakeem, El Kkaddish." Then she explained to him that long before she came to the Hospital the abscess formed, and an old Sheikh came and burnt it, and then, in order to make it drain properly, had inserted paper tubes, and as one tube slipped into the wound beyond reach, another was made and inserted in its place, and then the wound closed, the abscess getting worse every day. The Doctor and Nurse examined all the

three tubes, and found Zareefy's story quite correct, they were made of straw-coloured paper, such as is used for wrapping up sweets and nuts in the bazaars in the East. From that day the temperature went down, and at the end of a week the wound was healed, and the patient in the best of health and ready to go home. SISTER MARIE.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



A question in which all women are vitally concerned is the welfare of young children, and therefore the *Tribune* Rendezvous Conference on Monday last, on "Children in Public Houses in Relation to Infantile Mortality," presided over by Sir Thomas Barlow, had a very special interest for them. The Conference was remarkable for the extremely influential nature of the gathering. The Bishop of Hereford, Canon Horsley, Roman Catholic priests working in the slums, distinguished Nonconformist ministers, Mrs. Bramwell Booth, of the Salvation Army, leading members of the medical profession, Medical Officers of Health, many Members of Parliament, including the Governing Director of the *Tribune*, Mr. Franklin Thomasson, M.P., and a distinguished company, representing not only scientific and expert knowledge, but also the public at large, combined to make the occasion both notable and unique.

In opening the proceedings, Mr. Franklin Thomasson said: "There seems no possible defence of the fact that little children should be allowed in public-houses. Apart altogether from ordinary questions of Temperance, no sane person could approve of babies being dosed with alcohol, as is now undoubtedly the case. To exclude these from the public-houses would not be an attack upon the liberty of the subject (except, perhaps, in the opinion of those who have no sense of humour). It is not an attack upon the interests of publicans, who surely do not need babies for their customers. It would be a simple and sane measure to prevent the poisoning of the nation's little ones."

Subsequent speakers were Sir Thomas Barlow, Sir Lauder Brunton, Dr. Mary Scharlieb, Mr. Eustace Fiennes, M.P., and the subject before the meeting was then crystallised by Mr. Arthur Sherwell, M.P., who proposed, "That no child under 14 years of age shall be allowed into any licensed house other than a residential hotel."

The resolution was eloquently supported by Dr. Sandwith, the Bishop of Hereford, Sir Victor Horsley, Canon Hensley Henson, Dr. Robert Jones, Commissioner Nicoll, Professor Sims Woodhead, Dr. Macnamara, M.C., and others, after which it was carried unanimously, and the Conference resolved itself into a Committee for supporting the resolution as a legislative measure.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)