

## Practical Nursing Point Prize.

The Prize of 10s. for a Practical Point on Nursing has been won by Miss Margaret K. Steele, of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, for her Point on "The Art of Medicine Giving," the dainty little illustrations sent in are quite charming, one of which we reproduce.

The following "Points" are highly commended, and will appear in due course:—

"The Nursing of Diphtheria in Children,"

by Miss Mary Heron Watson.

"The Advantage of Hot Sponging," by Miss R. Holdsworth.

"Sunbaths for the Poor," by Miss Adele Masters.

"How to Prepare a Dose of Castor Oil," by Miss Constance Vernon.

### THE ART OF MEDICINE GIVING.

Which of us in the past memories of childhood do not remember the horror of medicine taking! Far back, almost hidden on the shelf of early years, there still stand the cracked and dusty jars of early recollections, the shade of Dr. Gregory, the ghost of Chavasse! Oh, flavour of pink powder, wallowing in jam deftly secreted in a shiny rat tail, and brought to us by Grandmamma, to the high wide bed with the flapping rose bestrewn dainty hangings. How we loathed it. Even Grannie's sweet placid face was pallid!

Years have not sufficed to wash away the taste, the very shape of the little china mug with its wreath of forget-me-nots is with us still.

Alas, no vision of a pretty room, no gleam of shining silver or rustle of silk frocks can remain in the little sick folks' minds of to-day, but surely they will remember "nurse" and

the way she gave them nasty meddie.

This is an age of make-believe, of hiding the disagreeable beneath a coating of sugar, but there are every day new pleasant ways occurring to hide and give nasty drugs. It is a large and very wide subject to write about. Let us but touch on one or two of the better known subjects.

For practical purposes we may classify the giving of medicine as follows:—

*Oils.*—Always disagreeable to the adult in whatever mode of giving. Usually taken well by children.

*Castor Oil.*—To give, rinse the glass in lemon juice, add one drachm of brandy to the amount of oil required, drop about half a drachm of boiling water on to the mixture, which immediately contracts the oil and makes a better drink. Instead of brandy, peppermint water or caraway water may be given, but with not quite the same success.

*Powders.*—For children and even adults powders are more easily taken in a spoonful of sugar syrup. This mixture is easily made at home from sugar and water, and kept in a large



MEDICINE BROUGHT BY GRANDMAMMA.

mouthed jar. All good old-fashioned country houses where these are kept, can usually produce a ready supply. It is practically impossible to put a dry powder on a child's tongue, as all the world of mothers and nurses know. Even the jam sandwich is more often than not spluttered all over the bed instead of its proper place. Many powders are difficult to mix, some being insoluble in water. How many of us have not suffered in this way—drunk up hastily the horrid mixture, to find at the bottom the powder still awaiting us. Brandy is a good medium for most refractory subjects.

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