contemporary says: "The moral is, of course, that even if it is impossible for the hospitals to receive all the children whose physical condition requires operations for the removal of tonsils and adenoids, there should be the strictest medical supervision of each child after operation before discharge, and every precaution should be taken against chill and against possible septic infection of the wounds. * * *

We well know how difficult is the management of an overcrowded out-patient department, especially when anything in the nature of an operation has to be done. At the same time we think it is intolerable that out-patients should be treated like cattle in an open market. We are quite sure that the majority of medical officers and nurses are more courteous and humane than those to whom reference has been made, but the mere fact that such things should be possible is in itself a scandal of a crying nature. Allowance must, of course, be made for the weakness of human nature, when a man or woman is pressed with work and hurried for want of time. None the less, it is a blot on our hospital system that things of the kind related should occur at all. It is the hospital patient above all others who most deserves consideration and humane feeling."

The writer in the British Medical Journal, however, fails to grasp our point that the sight of these suffering little children arouses a feeling of indignation upon the part of the humanitarian public, and thus injures our hospitals. On the remarks of women in the car that "It's a shame to turn children out in that condition," "Sort of thing as makes Socialists," he writes: "What the relevancy of the last unilluminating observation may be we cannot take it upon ourselves to say. There is no doubt, however, that this little story points a moral, if it does not exactly adorn a tale."

The relevancy of the observation is that in the uneducated mind socialism and anarchy are one and indivisible, and that forms of cruelty and brutality produce "red" reprisals.

To the average woman of all classes the sight of a bleeding and suffering child is constitutionally grievous, and, for the sake of our humanity, may it ever continue to be so.

We have to thank the Graduate Nurses' Association of Ontario for their appropriate calendar, in which appears a life-like picture of Mrs. Gamp

of Mrs. Gamp.
"Ah!" sighed Mrs. Gamp, as she meditated over the warm shillingsworth of gin,

"what a blessed thing it is—living in this wale—to be contented! What a blessed thing it is to make sick people happy in their beds, and never mind oneself as long as one can do a service! I don't believe a finer cowcumber was ever growed. I'm sure I never see one."

Now that transport to Canada is bringing us closer to the magnificent Dominion every day, and some nurses have ventured forth, not, we regret, to meet success, it would be well to look circumstances in the face. There is no doubt that there is a call for trained nurses in the West—say, away beyond its great key, the city of Winnipeg—but only the best all-round women are welcome. In reply to enquiries, we hear from Winnipeg that a large number of letters from English nurses asking for advice about going to Canada have been received by Miss F. Wilson, the lady Superintendent of the General Hospital at Winnipeg, and that she seldom advises them to go, for the following reason. She says: "We have a large number of the poorer class of English nurse which has made most of the medical men afraid to try them unless they are recommended by some one knowing the conditions of the West, and these practitioners state when writing for nurses that they do not want English trained nurses; so you can easily see, although we want nurses in the West, I cannot recommend English trained nurses to come here."

Miss Wilson's advice—and we know it is sound—is for women who want to nurse in Canada to go out and be trained in Canadian hospitals, where they would come in touch with the conditions of living in a comparatively new community, and would in consequence become acclimatised and fitted for the work to be done.

The Winnipeg Hospital is being greatly enlarged, and in another year will contain 550 beds; and this spring a class of probationers twice the usual number is to be admitted to prepare for the opening of the additional new wings. There is an opening, therefore, for a few of the "pick" of English applicants; but such applicants for training must be thoroughly well educated, domesticated young women, prepared to appreciate the special conditions of a new country; for life is very fresh out West.

Next week we shall publish a most interesting article on Training and Nursing in Canada, with a view to helping the right kind of girls to train there, if they wish to take part in the wonderful awakening in the West. previous page next page