

Queen's seat is constantly decorated by her juvenile courtiers with field flowers; it is surrounded by tiny flags, and by an entrenchment daily dug by the children. They bring offerings to the lady who narrates those charming fairy stories. One day they presented her with a spade garlanded with flowers of Roumanian colours. To satisfy the clamour of her small auditors "for more stories," the Queen, after she has finished reading from her books or manuscripts, sends to her residence for more material. "Carmen Sylva" promised the little members of her audience that she would send to each child who wrote its name and address in her album a photograph, with her autograph signature. The album has been filled to the last page. It is in these evidences of her love for little children that this gentle lady reminds us of the undying grief, which is with her always, for the loss of her own "ewe lamb," her one beautiful little child.

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MISS BEATRICE POTTER has brought before us, in her article in the *Nineteenth Century*, the fact that the once despised Jewish population of East London possess unrivalled advantages, in the struggle for existence going on in that unhappy quarter, over their Anglo-Saxon brethren. The superior temperance of the Jews, their greater fortitude in bearing discomfort, their care for the welfare of their children, their generosity towards one another, their untiring zeal and undivided aim to accumulate money, combined with their resistance to conditions of life, such as long and irregular hours, periods of strain and of enforced idleness, scanty nourishment, dirt, over-crowding, and casual charity which ruins the Anglo-Saxon's moral and physical fibre, make the struggle most unequal, and almost hopeless.

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WE reprint below an excellent article, from last week's *Queen*, on the subject of "Woollen Under-Clothing for Warm Weather," which, we think, ought to be read by all Nurses, exposed as they are, in many Hospitals, to the inevitable draughts of long corridors, isolated blocks, and the dangers consequent on the changes of temperature during their hours on night duty. We all know how chilly dawns the first streak of day, even in the summer time:—

*Woollen Underclothing for Warm Weather.*—Once the dictum of the Doctors has been allowed its full force—once the feminine mind has been brought to accept the fact of the superiority of woollen underwear to that of the ordinary unsanitary cotton—the troubles begin.

There are some people who can wear woollens in winter and change to cotton in warm weather with perfect impunity, but they are few and far

between; and, generally speaking, the change results in a severe cold, or, at the least, a bad attack of neuralgia. Indeed, people learned in woollens know quite well that it is the height of imprudence (once you have taken to wearing wool next to the skin) to cast it off at all, especially in warm weather. The pores of the skin, accustomed to the gentle friction of an absorbent woollen surface, feel the change to the smooth and less absorbent cotton far more in hot weather than when it is cool, or even cold, and such a change lays the foundation of many a serious illness. Yet, what is the poor sufferer to do under a hot July sun? Unfortunately, those who wear woollen underclothing are generally delicate people, who do so under medical advice, or because the maintenance of health and comfort demands it, and by reason of this delicacy they are less able to bear up under the fatigue and exhaustion induced by its warmth and weight in warm weather than those in more robust health; and such sufferers, especially when they are weakly children, are much to be pitied. When people have been wearing woollen underclothing through the winter, and it has become close and thick with repeated washing, a sudden spell of hot weather makes it positively unendurable; yet the change into cotton is so severe, that one hesitates to make it at once. Of course, a change can be made to thinner flannels; but there are none made that are thin enough to be really comfortable to weakly people in hot weather, unless the winter wear has been exceedingly heavy; this is seldom the case, unless the wearer has rheumatism or some equally well defined complaint. People usually wear ordinary union flannel, costing from 1s. to 1s. 6d. the yard, as it is found to shrink less with repeated washing than the finer all-wool goods, and, when this is the case, there is not a flannel to be bought which is thin enough to make a really comfortable change for the summer.

First-class firms now keep a thin flannel gauze, and also flannels woven with a silk warp and a woollen weft, made expressly for the Indian trade; but garments made of these materials come expensive, when the fact that they are not as durable as ordinary flannels in wear is remembered, in addition to the rather high prices charged for them in the first instance. Besides, even these thin flannels are thicker than one wants them to be in really hot weather. What is wanted is a fine woollen muslin, no heavier, and very little, if at all, thicker, than the objectionable but inviting cotton. Such a fabric is to be found where it is least expected; I mean in the range of dress stuffs now getting somewhat out of fashion, though the one to which I refer is still largely used for babies' frocks, especially when they are smocked.

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