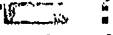


deliberately attempt to deceive a Government Department; and the Board can hardly feel flattered at the very clear indication of the estimation in which their reasoning faculties are held by the Committees of the London and other Hospitals. It would be invidious to lay much stress upon the fact that the Board of Trade entirely vindicated the judgment of these petitioners.

"FREE" TRADE.

ONE of the most pernicious elements in the exaggerated competition in many branches of trade to-day, is the system of bribery, whereby the seller hopes to catch the buyer. Of course it is seldom the seller, often the buyer, and always the producer, with one exception, who pays the cost of the bribe, that exception being in the liquor trade. The grocery trade is almost ethically ruined in some localities by this most pernicious custom; and it is a painful sight to see whole windows filled with gifts that are to be "given" to the purchaser of half-a-pound or a pound of tea. It makes one shudder at the thought of what wretched rubbish must be palmed off on the poor woman who buys half-a-pound of "Splendid Tea" for eighteenpence, and receives a small teapot, or a jug as a present for so doing. Someone pays for the bribe; and it needs only ordinary common sense to see that a trader who adopts such a plan for increasing his custom is not doing so from any of those motives that justify the giving of a gift. The liquor trade has adopted this plan of bribery in many places with most disastrous effect. In a neighbourhood not far from St. Paul's, a public-house advertised that a jug would be given away with every half-quarter of gin sold. The jugs filled three van-loads, and were all given away in little more than two days! Here is an extract from a licensed victualler's announcement, a short time ago. This gentleman does business in South Lancashire:—

"Thursday, April 27th, 1893.—Free Gifts! Free Gifts! Free Gifts! £20 worth of presents to be given away! Free! Free! Free! To any person who purchases one glass of ale one ticket will be given, and entitling him to participate in these free gifts; for every half glass of liquor one ticket will be given, for every glass of liquor two tickets. Now for something extra good. A splendid chronograph stop-watch will be given to the one who has the most tickets by six o'clock on Wednesday night, April 26. Now is your time, boys." 

It is sad enough and bad enough to think of the thousands who become drunkards without any bribery to do so; it is horrible to think of manufacturing them wholesale by such a system as the above. Surely in the matter of a trade so completely hemmed in by the sanctions of law as the liquor trade, it would not be violating any principle, or threatening any danger to other trades not so hampered, for such trading as the above to be declared absolutely illegal.

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Obstetric Nursing.

— BY OBSTETRICA, M.R.B.N.A. —

PART II.—INFANTILE.

CHAPTER IX.—CONGENITAL MALFORMATIONS.

(Continued from page 233.)

At their completion, this Course of Lectures will be published as one of the Series of "Nursing Record Text Books and Manuals."

THE most frequent facial malformations are those affecting the upper lip and mouth; anatomists tell us we are made up in halves, and it would seem as though these "halves" were not always brought into perfect apposition, and disfiguring clefts or fissures result. In the former case, the lesion affects the upper lip, which is divided into two slightly unequal divisions by a cleft or notch on one or other side of the median line, extending from the lower part of the lip to one or other nostril, and infants so born are said to be hare-lipped, and until surgical skill was directed to this malformation, it remained a permanent and sinister disfigurement to the face. The lip was drawn out of place, it could not cover the teeth, which showed between the rent, and the peculiar appearance it presented possibly led to the familiar term hare-lip. To this day hundreds of mothers ascribe this disaster to "frights" from rats or rabbits whilst carrying. One of my patients was "scared" by a black rabbit that escaped from his hutch and got in her bedroom, running across her bed, and the harmless fugitive was credited with having caused the very bad hare shorn lip poor baby brought into the world with her! I always listen with an air of profound credence to these maternal explanations (?) for, after all, mothers may know as much as any of us, "*c'est à dire fort peu de chose.*" With respect to the aforesaid black rabbit, he got in my way on the staircase long after his first escapade, and landed me at the bottom with a bruised knee, that left me in anything but an agnostic frame of mind respecting his powers of mischief, and led me to suggest that he should be put under pie crust with all speed to keep him out of my way for the future!

In the simplest form of hare lip, a single notch, a slight operation has to be performed, and this and all others for the rectification of malformations is in the domain of plastic surgery, which in skilful hands confers a boon upon poor disfigured humanity, especially when the lesion mars the beauty of "the human face divine."

Most surgeons are in favour of early interference;

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