People living in Kensington and Belgravia, two very new suburbs, raised many and forceful objections. A certain Colonel Sibthorpe, Member of Parliament for Lincoln, presented vigorous objections. He said :—

"The country will be flooded with cheap, foreign goods and hordes of foreigners will come to sell these goods. Thieves and anarchists will flock to London and secret societies will form to assassinate the queen. There will be a flood of Papists bringing idolatry and bubonic plague . . . and all the doings of that damned prince. Aliens are already hiring houses to be used as brothels and all the prisons of England will not be big enough to hold all the foreign ruffians. The Serpentine will become an open, infested sewer."

Despite this the scheme went afoot, slowly at first, gathering momentum as one by one the objectors saw the good sense of this idea—all, that is, excepting Sibthorpe who never went to the Exhibition during its five and a half months of life. A newcomer, Joseph Paxton, Head Gardener to the Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth, submitted a plan—something unique—a great glass-house, a crystal building—the CRYSTAL PALACE. On June 11th, 1850, he went to North Wales on business and upon his return to Derby he presided over a Committee of the Midland Railway and it was during this meeting that the idea came to him and he drew the first germs of the idea of this gigantic glass building on the blotting pad. Fortunately that pad has been kept for posterity to see.

The great opening day—Thursday, May 1st, 1851. It fell on a Tuesday. in that year and it was a bright morning although a little rain somewhat marred the proceedings around mid-day. Church bells were rung, balloons were released, everyone had a holiday and altogether the day had a festive air. The queen left Buckingham Palace about a quarter to twelve and arrived at the building at five minutes to twelve where, amidst the great concord from all over the world, she performed the opening ceremony. So many famous people were there it is impossible to name them all. The Iron Duke (Wellington) may perhaps be mentioned by name because it was his birthday! He was 82 on this great day.

The Exhibition was admirably planned and included Fine Arts, Manufactures, Minerals and Raw Materials and Machinery.

Among the exhibits we find :—

A model of Liverpool Docks with 1,700 fully rigged ships,
Gold from Wales,
Pearls from Aberdeenshire,
An expanding hearse by Mr. Shillibeer,
A machine producing 5,000 copies of the *Illustrated London News* every hour,
A machine producing 45 envelopes per minute,
A "Masticating Knife for the Toothless,"
A Silent Alarm Clock which threw the bed on to its side at a given time,
Clothing with "an unpickable pocket,"
A pocket knife with 300 blades,

and countless other items including a machine for cooking by gas, a pocket umbrella, a life-saving mattress, a refrigerator, a submarine boat shaped like a broad backed carp, etc., etc.

Despite the whines of the pessimists there were only 21 arrests during the whole life of the Exhibition, 6,039,195 people saw it and, on one occasion there were 17,000 people in the building at one time. The average attendance each day was between 50,000 and 60,000.

Quite certainly the Great Exhibition of 1851 was the beginning of our national prosperity—it was, after all a shop window wherein we placed our goods. It came at the turning point in industry, the very beginning of the Industrial Revolution and it is not open to doubt that here, in this great venture we began our sales to every corner of the universe. Queen Victoria in her diary that night of the opening, over 100 years ago wrote truth when she wrote :—

"God bless my dearest Albert, God bless my dearest country which has shown itself so great today."

H. L. BRYANT PEERS.

Perfume and Toilet Water in Care of the Sick.

Nursing and Perfumes.

By W. SCHWEISHEIMER, M.D., Rye, N.Y.

IN FORMER TIMES WOMEN used to have fainting spells much more frequently than today. Any kind of excitement, any unexpected news resulted in them sinking unconscious to the ground.

No wonder then that perfumes and smelling salts were needed in large quantities to bring them back to life. Those bottles contained some sharp smelling, stimulating salts, consisting mostly of carbonate or ammonia together with some oil of lavender or flavoured with another perfume. They were popular with men, too.

Perfumes in Sick Rooms.

Spraying perfume is an excellent method of improving the air within a sickroom where one or several patients are suffering from chronic conditions of the bladder or the bowels—or from bed-sores—or from a badly smelling skin disease. Pliny, Roman naturalist of the first century A.D., already recommended hanging pennyroyal in bedrooms because he considered it valuable for the health of the inmates.

During the period of the Black Death, the Plague, in Europe odoriferous candles were used in the sick rooms. They contained mixed or alone red roses, cloves, storax, laudanum, frankincense, citron peels, juniper berries, musk, ambergris, etc. The mixture was formed into long and small candles with gumdragant which had been dissolved in rose water.

No airing nor ventilation may be sufficient to remove bad odours from the sickroom, and perfumes are a welcome help and relief—welcome to both the patient and the nursing person.

A spirituous preparation containing oil of rosemary and other essential oils, Eau de Cologne, may prove useful in nursing. It is added to the water used for washing or sponging the face, the hands and other parts of the bed-ridden patient. Most patients like the cooling, refreshing effect of the toilet water. A diluted solution of the preparation makes an evaporating solution out of which one or two lavers of gauze are wrung and applied to the forehead, or inflamed joint or bruised part, whenever the sensation of cooling is required.

We are told by Clarkson that the English nurses of Tudor times put the bruised fresh leaves of bergamot, mint and lavender on the brows of their patients. For nervous head-aches, the nurses of that epoch would apply herbal snuggs of basil alone, or a combination of rosemary, betony, marjoram and lavender. In our times eucalyptol, a powerful antiseptic has been discovered to be present in sage, rosemary and lavender.

Care of the skin can rarely do without any perfume, be it a lotion or a soap, cream, paste or whatever preparation seems most effective. Cleansing effects and stimulation of the blood vessels in the skin are the main points in this care, but addition of perfume makes the method a pleasant one and guarantees its continuance. Nurses as well as doctors have to wash their hands many times a day, and they try to improve this tedious business by some pleasant scent. Perfumed soaps are in everybody's hand today, well to the advantage of the general health.

This was not always so and we may remember Thackeray's word in "Pendennis" where somebody makes the caustic

previous page next page