

They are both charming, and it is indeed difficult to decide between their rival merits. Mr. Gaskin's initial letters and designs are very meritorious, but perhaps *children* might consider them too "high art"! Mr. Weguelin's illustration to the "Mermaid" are really poetic and fanciful.

We have mentioned a few of the most interesting among the less expensive books, but the greater part of the literature published for children this year, is to be commended for quantity and cheapness, rather than for quality. How gladly we should welcome something really original—something with "a little blue fire in its tail"! like "Lear's Book of Nonsense" or the immortal "Alice in Wonderland."

Inventions, Preparations, &c.

SWANSDOWN FLANNELETTE.

The necessity for warm underclothing is now generally recognized by Nurses, and is, indeed, necessitated by the general adoption of uniforms made of washing materials. For some time, woollen garments were believed to have met the need, but the rough and ready laundry work of most Hospitals, combined with the cost of wearable goods, has proved too great an expense for many Nurses, who have consequently used flannelette as a substitute. Amongst the samples of this material which we have obtained, we have been much pleased with the Swansdown Flannelette manufactured by Messrs. A. Hackett & Co., of 8, High Street, Birmingham. They are very soft and comfortable, appear almost, if not quite, unshrinkable, and are extremely moderate in price. The thicker materials should make most useful dressing gowns.

LEVICO WATER.

The Vienna *Tageblatt*, of October 3rd last, says:—"During the visit of His Imperial Highness the Emperor of Austria at the festival held at Innsbruck, he gave audience to a deputation from the well-known district of Levico. At this reception the Emperor displayed marked interest in the report of the improvements carried out and the excellent condition of the natural iron and arsenic springs situated at Levico, and declared that these springs had greatly risen in his estimation since the Empress had so successfully undergone the course of treatment prescribed for her at the Levico Springs." The value of this water is becoming more and more recognised in England, and its use in cases of anæmia as a form of administering iron, is reported to be as satisfactory to medical men as it is agreeable to their patients. The address of the firm, from whom it can be obtained, is Messrs. Hertz and Collingwood, 4, Sussex Place, Leadenhall Street, E.C.

MELLIN'S FOOD.

It is needless to say anything in praise of Mellin's Food, because its value is certainly known to all our readers. But it is interesting to learn that the preparation bears an equally high reputation abroad. The *Belgian News and Continental Advertiser*, for example, recently stated that: "Mellin's Food, the most popular and beneficial form of infantile nourishment ever invented, has just received an extraordinary mark of favour from the Empress of Germany, who has issued a certificate under her hand and seal, declaring that the 'Food for Children has been used with the best results by the young princes, sons of their Imperial Majesties, the Emperor and Empress.' As the eldest of their sons was a full-blown officer at ten, Mellin's Food will doubtless soon be used in every German household. We hear, by the way, that Miss Maudie Holmes, Major Knox Holmes's granddaughter, the champion five-year-old cyclist of the world, was brought up entirely on Mellin's Food, to the efficacy of which her grandfather ascribes much of her phenomenal strength."

THE KAISER'S COCOA.

Our attention has been called to this preparation, and we have given it an exhaustive trial. An analysis of it shows that it is a compound of cocoa and peptonised meat extract, and very rich in nitrogenous constituents (21 per cent.). It, therefore, contains all the elements needed for tissue formation, and as it is pleasantly flavoured and most palatable, we confidently predict, that it only requires to be known to take a high place amongst dietetic preparations of its class. It has an additional advantage in that, being prepared entirely without sugar, it can be recommended to those suffering from diabetes and dyspepsia. It can be obtained from Messrs. Scheibler Brothers and Co., 23, New Broad Street, E.C.

DRY AND WARM BOOTS.

Everyone has experienced the discomfort of wet and cold boots, and knows the evil consequences thereof to the wearer. It is to be presumed, therefore, that a new invention, which is designed to warm and dry boots, should meet a general want. The arrangement consists of a novel boot-tree, so made that the parts are jointed together instead of being in separate pieces, as in the ordinary form. It is, therefore, easily introduced into the boot. The hollow base contains a metal case which holds an oblong piece of iron which can be easily slipped out, heated over a spirit lamp, and re-introduced. The sole of the tree is lined with a thick woollen material, which protects the boot leather from any injury, while the diffused heat rapidly dries and warms it. To District Nurses especially, who are out in all weathers, the invention should prove very useful. It is sold by the London Shoe Company, 116 and 117, New Bond Street, W., and at 45A, Cheapside, E.C.

Comments and Replies.

REPLIES.

Sister Aimée.—The question is not, "What I shall receive?" but "What shall I give?" We are not surprised, as you surmise, at your request for information, because

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