

Inventions, Preparations, &c.

MEAT JUICES.

Our attention has been called to Curtis's Meat Juice and to the peptonized nutrient suppositories, made by the same firm. These appear to thoroughly deserve the special advantages which are claimed for them. The meat juice is most palatable, and is stimulating as well as nourishing. The suppositories are not greasy, and appear to be unusually free from waste material—this, perhaps, being due to the fact that they are carefully peptonized; at any rate, they seem to be completely absorbed in a comparatively short space of time.

BOVRIL.

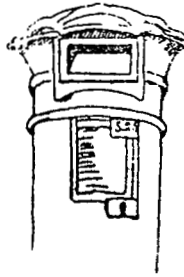
A specimen of this well-known food in porcelain lined jars has been submitted to us, and appears to be especially useful for the sick room. It is free from seasoning, and is otherwise of the excellent quality for which the Bovril preparations are so favorably known. The same Company now supply a Kudos Cocoa, which they state is prepared from a blend of the finest beans grown in Ceylon, the West Indies, and Central and South America. It is certainly of a delicious flavour and aroma, and is most soluble. It appears from a short trial, to which we have subjected it, to be digested easily, even in a case of marked dyspepsia.

BELLADONNA POULTICES.

A specimen of an impermeable poultice, has been manufactured by Messrs. J. B. Barnes & Son, of Knightsbridge. It is stated to be carefully prepared from English-grown belladonna leaves, extracted by a suitable solvent, and combined with an emollient and antiseptic basis. It has a backing of a waterproof material, so that warmth and moisture are retained, and we have found it of much service, especially in a case of breast trouble after labour.

BONTHRON'S BISCUITS.

We have pleasure in drawing the attention of our readers to the excellent qualities of the biscuits and bread prepared by this firm for diabetic patients. The biscuits are palatable, very nutritious, and digestible, and are free alike from the dryness and bitterness which cause patients to have such aversion to bran food, and from the insipid taste and tenacious quality of the ordinary gluten bread. They are sent out in specially-prepared tins, so that they keep well in any part of the world for some length of time, especially if kept in a dry place. The bread, however, cannot be reckoned upon to keep good for longer than ten days.



Letters to the Editor.

(Notes, Queries, &c.)

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

PRIVATE NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I do not think any Private Nurse should undertake to learn the "A B C" of Hysteria Nursing without having some idea of its almost overwhelming difficulties. I am quite certain the alphabet of Hysteria Nursing is far harder to learn than Chinese. No one who has not had charge of an "H. Y. S." knows what the first week is to the Nurse. It is a week of the hardest strain on the Nurse's nerve and will power that can be imagined, and if during this first week the patient's will is not overcome by the Nurse, then goodbye to all hope of recovery from the moral disease which hysteria undoubtedly is. The body may become so affected by the unhealthy condition of the mind as to give rise to real physical evils; but these have to be treated chiefly through treating the moral disease. And certainly doctors acknowledge that it is not by medicine that the cure will be made. It does sound perhaps a wee bit hard of them to shift all responsibility on the Nurse, and say "Now the cure rests with you entirely, I can do nothing, the praise or the blame will all be yours," for I don't believe the doctor one bit realizes the heavy burden he is laying on the Nurse. She feels (or she ought to feel) that she must now throw herself body, soul and spirit into the case; the hysteria *must* be driven out, no matter if the fight wears her to pieces, turns her hair grey, makes her wish herself at Jericho. At all costs the H. Y. S. *must* be cured, and the patient *must* be made to see that she herself is responsible; that she herself must work with the Nurse in order to gain health. The Nurse must prepare herself for much weary work, and for many disappointments. Sometimes, for many days together, the patient will appear almost cured, fancies are forgotten, a cheerful temperament prevails, and everything is altogether delightful. But, presently, down comes the cloud again; depression, pains, aches, misery. This is the time for kind scolding. If the patient likes the Nurse and feels confidence in her, and the Nurse likes the patient and is interested in her, the scolding will certainly do good. Never mind if tears are the result, it relieves the tension, so don't try to comfort, that will spoil the effect. But the Nurse must be sure to be very kind though the scolding is a real one. Fancies must not be given way to one single inch, or, before you know where you are, the patient will have got beyond re-call. Never for one moment must the Nurse's will power be off the patient until the symptoms of H. Y. S. being less marked, a very carefully regulated amount of licence may be given. For instance, the patient goes out, and comes in *really* tired. If the Nurse has had her well in hand for two months she may venture to allow that there is fatigue; but she must watch like a dragon to see that the tiredness is not taken advantage of, and H. Y. S. take its place, after a lapse of reasonable time for fatigue to pass. Pain in the temple always accompanies attacks of hysteria when a cure is in hand, and this causes a simulation of bodily pain *always*. The Nurse must be very careful indeed not to put down *real* discomfort to hysteria, for if she does she will loose ground. The patient must see that the Nurse knows real from false pain, and that she is ready to sympathise with the real; this will greatly add to her confidence in the Nurse, although, of course, unknow-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)