

this man and this woman; yet their individuality, though of such a common type, is vividly preserved. They part—there are a few tears—but we are spared heroics; and when Mimi returns to St. Petersburg, the whole family meet her at the station, and “baby, drawing himself up straight in front of her, says to her, ‘I wish you good health, your Excellency!’ And Spiridon Ivanovitch (her husband) enfolds Mimotchka in his ample embrace.”

As the fascinating “Variashski” lived at Moscow, one gathers that Mimi did not see any more of him, though all her life she would remember her picnic to “The Castle of Love and Treachery”—it was so very beautiful especially by moonlight . . . “*c’était féérique.*”

“THE STORY OF IRELAND.” By Standish O’Grady. (Methuen & Co.)

This is a short history of Ireland, and should be instructive to people to whom “Tara” and the “Battle of the Boyne” are mere legendary names. The last chapter, on Parnell’s Personality, is very interesting. Mr. O’Grady assures us that Parnell did not regard Irish landlords as “coroneted ghouls”; that he “no more hated them than the fox-hunter hates the fox.” He assures us that—

“Parnell was nothing of a fanatic. Classes, interests, parties, men of all kinds, were only the materials for this workman—ways and means for the making of the Irish Nation.”

—which, probably, is a perfectly veracious summing up of the character and aims of that famous (so called) Irish patriot.

Inventions, Preparations, &c.

SCRUBB’S CLOUDY HOUSEHOLD AMMONIA.

We have been much pleased with the excellence of this preparation, and also with the Antiseptic Skin Soap produced by the firm of Messrs. Scrubb & Co. The former represents a very useful means of obtaining the valuable qualities of the alkali, the difficulties in the preparation of which have hitherto, to a large extent, prevented its popular use; but the solvent action of ammonia upon dirt and grease, and therefore its cleansing properties, are so great, that many Nurses will be glad to know of the preparation to which we now draw their attention. But a further use has been found for this valuable production. Added to a hot bath, to the extent of about two table-spoonsful, it is proved to be both cleansing and refreshing to the skin, and some who have employed it compare its effects to those of a Turkish bath. Nurses will, in this respect, find it well worthy of a trial.

A THERMOMETER FOR BATHS AND BABIES.

A lamentable accident which has recently occurred, and in which a child was so terribly scalded by being put into a hot bath that it died from the injuries, illustrates the care which Nurses should exercise in such matters. It is as important for the Nurse to take, as a matter of routine duty, the temperature of the bath into which she is about to place a patient, as it is to

take the patient’s own surface temperature. It, therefore, gives us much pleasure to call attention to a very valuable thermometer which has been introduced by James J. Hicks, 8, Hatton Garden, E.C., which has been expressly designed for nursery use, and can be also used if occasion requires, not only for the baby’s food and its bath, but also to ascertain the bodily heat of the baby itself. It is about six inches long, and made, either with a round hollow ball, or a long hollow top, which serves as a handle for the instrument, and enables the thermometer to float when inserted in a bath. There are only three divisional lines in the stem of the thermometer, and so confusion is prevented. The three lines, to which we refer, are numbered 1, 2 and 3, and represent respectively—No. 1, 75 degrees F., a baby’s tepid bath; No. 2, 98.4, baby’s food, warm bath and own temperature; No. 3, 103 degrees, baby’s hot bath. The Nurse should remember that the hot bath ought not to be given as a matter of routine, except by medical orders. There is no necessity to insist upon the importance of care in such a matter as this, where infants are concerned, because nothing is more unsatisfactory and even unsafe, than for a grown-up person to attempt to estimate the heat of a baby’s food or the heat of its bath by the result upon her own sensations. There is the greatest difference between the sensations and the thickness of the skin of a nurse-maid, and the tender skin of a baby. We can, therefore, confidently recommend this invention to the attention of all who are engaged in the nursing of infants.

Letters to the Editor.

“THE OTHER SIDE”

To the Editor of “The Nursing Record.”

MADAM,—Allow me to help the dissatisfied Nurse to make up her mind, by giving a little of my experience as an obstetric Nurse. A good maternity Nurse can always have her time filled up, if she does not try to combine other Nursing with it. For seven years I had more cases offered than I could take, and had I not had a family of four to keep would have laid money by easily. Get a good doctor to give you a case, and then try, whenever possible, to take the cases he finds, and you will certainly do better than by Nursing for a number of medical men. I had twenty-nine first cases in the seven years of the same doctors. So “Dissatisfied One” will see that Nurses working on their own account are not so miserably paid, as six guineas for the month is the lowest fee paid to Yours,
OBSTETRIC.

To the Editor of “the Nursing Record.”

MADAM,—I am very pleased to answer the letter in your last week’s edition, from a Nurse signing herself, “Four Years’ Experience,” and to give my experience as a Nurse working for herself, and am happy to tell your correspondent that after nearly four years’ experience of the same I am anything but miserably poor; as a matter of fact, I am much better off than I used to be when working for an institution. In looking through my diaries, the following are the figures of my receipts during the last three years:—

	£	s.	d.
In 1891	66	19	0
„ 1892	102	17	0
„ 1893	140	17	0

Should this correspondence continue, I shall be happy to write more fully on the subject. } “PROGRESS.”

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