

violent passion—a mixture of love, licentiousness and arrogance. Not being able to vent upon her former lover the mortification which tore her heart, she wreaked her vengeance on the fruit of their love. When the child was bleeding and trembling at her feet, her looks of anguish, her gestures, and the tone of her voice seemed to her those of her lover, humiliated and supplicating, and then she experienced an awful pleasure which made her eyes shine and her nostrils dilate."

A wicked deformed sewing woman, named Concha, aided and abetted her fiendish mistress, and, not content with torturing the child's body, they frightened her by dressing up as bogies, and locking her in the cellar with the rats and the darkness, and there was no one to put out a saving hand; for when, at last, the Conde hears of the martyrdom that his daughter is enduring, and comes to her rescue, it is too late; and though he breaks off his intended marriage and carries the child away in his carriage, overcome by nervous tremour and the cruel treatment she has undergone, Josefina fell dead in his arms "like a lily with a broken stem."

*The Grandee* is not a pleasant book, but it is a wonderful picture of a jealous woman without self-control, blinded by passion and dead to all feelings of compassion or remorse. Yet I think Valdés would have been a greater artist if he could, in spite of all her wickedness and cruelty, have made us feel, some slight compassion for the jealous woman; but never, from first to last, are we allowed to feel anything but horror and disgust at her sinful cruelty and fiendish wickedness. All the characters in the book are disagreeable, and the poor child Josefina is like a little rose leaf blown about by the storms of their contending passions. If only a fifth of the tortures inflicted upon this poor child are probable or even possible, the sooner a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children is started in Spain, the better. A. M. G.

## Inventions, Preparations, &c.

### SWINBORNE'S ISINGLASS.

It might seem almost unnecessary to allude to the remarkable qualities possessed by Swinborne's Patent Refined Isinglass and Patent Calves' Feet Gelatine. It is well known that Isinglass is the purest form of gelatine, and that formerly it fell into undeserved disrepute in consequence of the fact that the preparations mostly used came from Russia or Brazil, and contained a good deal of insoluble matter or impurities which did more harm than good. It is to the credit of Mr. C. P. Swinborne, of St. Andrew's Hill, Queen Victoria Street, E.C., that the preparations which he has produced have almost completely superseded amongst people of experience, the impure forms which were previously imported in such large quantities. His Isinglass is perfectly pure and free from all taste or smell, it is easily digested and most nourishing, and a small quantity of it dissolved in wine, broth, or milk, will be found very

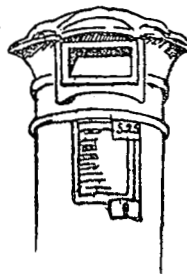
strengthening for invalids and young children. It is well to remember also that although gelatine is frequently employed instead of isinglass, the former is, especially so far as the cheaper kinds are concerned, generally of foreign manufacture and cannot be relied upon. In our opinion, when invalids are concerned the best preparation is almost invariably the cheapest in the long run, and considering the excellence of Swinborne's preparations, and the benefit invalids derive from them, we believe that they are undoubtedly the form which should be used and recommended.

### THE BIRKBECK BANK.

We are frequently applied to by nurses for advice as to the best methods of investing their savings, and while our invariable advice to such is to consult a respectable stockbroker, *and never one who advertises*, we have pleasure and confidence in drawing the attention of our readers to the many advantages offered to small investors by the Birkbeck Building Society, the total assets of which now amount to over six millions of pounds sterling. Those of our readers who remember the extraordinary strain and test to which the soundness of this Society was exposed last year, and the triumphant manner in which it issued from the ordeal, will probably feel that we have good grounds for our recommendation. They can obtain full particulars from the Secretary of the Society, Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, W.C.

## 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.*

### ADVICE WANTED.

*To the Editor of "the Nursing Record."*

MADAM,

The Matrons' Council now established will give the heads of Hospitals and those in authority an opportunity for discussing of points of etiquette and for settling knotty problems. Now, I would like to suggest that we Nurses should form a Nurses' Council in the RECORD, if our kind Editor will allow. We might help one another in many ways by suggestions of escape and loopholes from awkward positions. I would like to put a 'hard case' before the readers of the RECORD, and ask them to throw some light upon the etiquette of my position. I am nursing a private case in the country. My patient is an old-fashioned middle-aged spinster, very reticent and shy. The doctor in the case is an very unusual rural type—hearty, kind, and good-natured,

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