

have been a dual personage, quite as much as the famous Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde of Stevenson's fine allegorical romance.

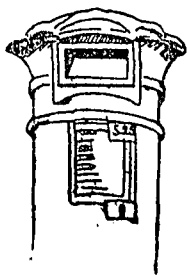
It is inevitable that controversies will arise over these interesting lectures—now at last published in book form—and, perhaps, while we are enjoying the fascination of the writer's brilliant gift of style and almost unique power of description, it will be well for us to remember that the eminent historian who has passed away, was perhaps endowed with too splendid and rich a power of imagination to make him a perfectly safe and entirely accurate guide in matters historical.

A. M. G.

Inventions, Preparations, &c.

PATENT BARLEY AND GROATS.

Messrs. Keen, Robinson & Co. have produced various preparations, the excellence of which has been testified to, by more than a score of prize medals and by general acknowledgment throughout the world. While "Keen as Mustard," however, has passed into a proverb, there are, we find, many who are unaware of the great advantages of the Patent Groats and Patent Barley prepared by this Firm. The former is in powder and makes most admirable gruel and porridge; it is of such fine flavour and so easily digested that children and invalids can take it much better than other ordinary preparations, and as an article of nourishment it can hardly be surpassed, for it contains all the essentials requisite for the formation of bone in growing children. To children especially, therefore, such porridge is invaluable, and for invalids convalescent from exhausting diseases it is for the same qualities, equally useful. The Patent Barley is also in the form of powder, and makes such excellent Barley water, that Nurses would do well always to employ this preparation, and by so doing they can be certain of the purity of the material employed; and, unfortunately, much doubt on this point exists in a considerable number of the manufactured Barleys of the present day.



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.

Miss Edith Richards, Matron of the General Infirmary, Sheffield, kindly sends us a copy of the Rules now in force in that Institution which we print below as those quoted in the Probationers' number were not up to date:—Established 1797. 200 Beds. Nursing Staff—Matron, Miss Richards, 8 Sisters, 20 Probationers. Probationers' age 22 to 32. Training—two years with option of remaining three. Certi-

ficat at end of second year. Salaries—Sisters, £27 to £35; Nurses, £20 to £25; Probationers, £15 second year. Probationers' fee, £30. Holidays, 17, 21 and 24 days. Paying Probationers remaining two years neither pay nor are paid for second year. No certificate is given under two years. Regulations as to the Training of Nurses in the Sheffield Infirmary:—Arrangements have been made for giving a two years' course of training to women desirous of working as Hospital Nurses. Gentlewomen desirous of qualifying as skilled Nurses, and for the more responsible appointments in Hospitals, can be received as Probationers. The term of the Probationer's training is two complete years, and they will be received on the distinct understanding that they will remain for the required time. They will be subject to be discharged at any time by the Matron, in case of misconduct, or should she consider them inefficient, or negligent of their duties. The Probationers will be under the authority of the Matron, and will be subject to the Rules of the Hospital. They will have two hours daily off duty, and half a day each alternate Sunday. They will be provided with board, washing, and indoor uniform, which they will always be required to wear when on duty. They will serve as Assistant Nurses in the wards of the Hospital. The names of the Probationers will be entered in a Register, in which a record will be kept of their conduct and qualifications. At the end of two years those who have passed satisfactorily through the course of instruction and training will receive a certificate of efficiency. Ordinary Nurses are bound for a period of two years, and receive £15 wages for the second year's service. By payment of a fee of £30 the second year's service is not exacted, and a separate bedroom is allowed. There is a general sitting-room where classes of instruction are held, and where Nurses can receive their friends.

THE DORSET COUNTY HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—In the RECORD of last week, it was stated that the post of Matron to the Dorset County Hospital "has been vacant half-a-dozen times the last few years." I resigned the Matronship there last autumn, and had held the post for five years and two months, so that the notice in your paper is scarcely correct. At the time I was appointed the Hospital was in sad repute for quarrelling and strife, and there had been many Matrons elected during the previous two years. I mention this in justice to myself rather than to vindicate those in authority in that Hospital, for in my opinion it is not a happy or an easy post for any Matron.—Yours truly,

HENRIETTA LAWRENCE,

Matron of the Longton Hospital, M.R.B.N.A., and Registered Nurse.

[We regret that the paragraph in our issue of the 20th ultimo failed to record the excellent and self-sacrificing work done by Miss Henrietta Lawrence whilst Matron of the Dorchester Hospital, during her term of office; but, as she says, previous to her occupancy of the post, "many Matrons had been elected in the previous two years," so that our statement was really quite correct. We called attention to this matter as it is well known in Nursing circles that no well-trained and conscientious Nurse can continue to perform her duties as Matron in the Dorset County Hospital, without being subjected to insult and innumerable difficulties. The Committee (entirely composed of men) have proved quite incapable of supporting any Matron in maintaining discipline and efficiency in the Nursing department; and, in our opinion, it is necessary that public opinion should be aroused in Dorchester concerning the management of this Institution. The fact is beyond all dispute that where there is a want of harmony amongst the officials of a Hospital the sick poor are the first and greatest sufferers.—ED.]

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