

occurs naturally as a mineral, and is also present in the ashes of plants.

Potassium carbonate or sodium carbonate, though less destructive to the skin than caustic potash or caustic soda, yet retains considerable power to dissolve grease. Occurring naturally, as they do, it is surprising that their cleansing properties were known, and taken advantage of, centuries before the metals which they contain were isolated. Prof. Lewes tells us that as early as A.D. 69, Pliny the Elder mentions a form of cleansing material made from tallow and ashes, the components most recommended being goat's suet and the ash of beechwood; while the ruins of Pompeii were found to contain a fairly perfect soap factory.

Inventions, Preparations, &c.

SANITARY SCIENCE.

The Sanitary Engineering and Ventilation Company, of 65, Victoria Street, Westminster, are doing an important work for the health of the people in their various undertakings which, according to their illustrated frontispiece, comprise schemes to procure for the public pure air, pure light and pure water. The Company investigates, tests and reports upon the drainage, ventilation and water supply of houses, providing the best appliances, and carrying out the necessary sanitary improvements, and in other ways performing the most useful work for the Public Health. Some of their special sanitary appliances are most ingenious, complete and useful. Their lavatory and bath fittings are excellent in design and manufacture; but perhaps, the "Imperial" inlet and outlet ventilators deserve, and will receive, most attention from our readers. These are in growing demand amongst the leading architects, for the efficient ventilation of public buildings, and private houses. The principle of the ventilators is, that the fresh air shall be admitted in a vertical current ascending for several feet above the top of the ventilator, then spreading out and diffusing over the room, and mixing with warmer air before descending to the breathing level of the occupants. The outlet ventilator is in the chimney breast, and consequently, the air in the room is kept constantly changed without creating any perceptible draught. Our readers will observe that this system is peculiarly applicable to the sick room, and therefore to hospital wards. Indeed, in the building or rebuilding of such institutions, we consider that this system of ventilation should be employed.

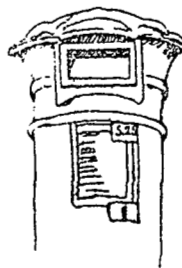
COSMOSINE.

This is a Powder which has been recently introduced as an article of value for the bath and toilet. We have given it a good trial, and have found it most pleasant and refreshing in the bath, invigorating; and at the same time, soothing to the skin.

It has the property of softening the water, and is evidently an excellent preparation for cleansing the hair. From its odour, we imagine that it must contain some preparation of camphor, and from its effect upon the hands, it clearly contains a small quantity of alkali. It should, therefore, form a preparation which would be valuable for Nurses to use, when in attendance upon infectious cases, for themselves as well as for the patient. Half a teaspoonful only is required for the basin of water, and the powder does not interfere with the use of a good soap. It is asserted that it is absolutely non-poisonous, and we have found, by experiment, that dissolved in water, it is a very effective means of cleansing feeding-bottles, completely preventing any smell of sourness after milk has been retained even for several hours. Cosmosine can be obtained through any chemist, in boxes containing sufficient for ten large baths, twenty-five hip or sponge baths, or 200 basinfuls of water, at the moderate price of 2s. 6d. Or it can be obtained direct from the Cosmosine Company, 44, Granby Row, Manchester. Large consumers, such as some of our readers probably will be, might find it possible, perhaps, to obtain some reduction upon this price by writing direct to the Company.

CALLARD'S BISCUITS.

We have received specimens of some excellent and most appetising meal biscuits, prepared by Messrs. Callard & Co., of 65, Regent Street, the well-known confectioners and manufacturers of various diabetic foods. These biscuits are, it is needless to say, excellently made, and they are also so appetising, that we have found invalids take them with satisfaction who could not be tempted to take any of the ordinary forms.



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.

THE "SWEATING" OF RURAL NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Will you allow me a short space in your columns to correct a curious mistake which occurred in an article in the NURSING RECORD of June 16th. The writer, referring to a leaflet of mine on Holt-Ockley Nursing Associations, appears to think that the sums mentioned as fees are the wages paid to the Nurses, and that their only remuneration comes from the twopenny casual visits, or the 6d. or 8d. for sitting up; and then proceeds to ask indignantly, "Is it a living wage, even for women?" We thank Miss

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)