## March 23, 1895] The Mursing Record & Ibospital World.

jaws. But she ascribed these symptoms to the weakening influence of the influenza, and presently, when her third dose of mixture became due, she took it with the cheerful conviction that it "would soon set her up." But after a few minutes the "twitchings" and rigidity increased, and the patient fainted.

It is very possible that she was peculiarly susceptible to the drug, and no doubt in her weakened condition the heart and nervous system being somewhat depressed, were unusually impressionable, but the doctor who was called in to the case expressed his views on the chemist's action in somewhat forcible terms, and diagnosed his patient's condition as a mild form of nux vomica poisoning. The patient, nervous and overwrought, and suffering from violent headache, repented at leisure of the confidence she had displayed towards the "prescribing chemist," who, later on, received a visit from the irate physician, whose prescription had been so unwarrantably tampered with.

At the Mass Meeting held recently at the Albert Hall to honour and celebrate the return of General Booth from Canada and the United States, a gigantic procession was formed à la Augustus Harris, which, forming in picturesque groups, filed past the "only General" of the Salvation Army, and did him homage in quite royal fashion.

Among these groups were a considerable number of Nurses in Hospital uniform. It would be interesting to know if the Salvation Army requires that its Nurses should go through the Hospital ranks before being appointed lieutenants or captains in its Nursing corps, or whether raw recruits, after a few months' training, are allowed to don the uniform and pose as guardians of the sick.

Perhaps someone who is acquainted with the organisation of the Salvation Army might answer this question—a very important one. The time has come for public feeling to be aroused on the question of the rapid multiplication of the bogus Nurse, with all the attendant dangers and abuses arising from the trust and confidence bestowed upon her, just because she wears some cap strings or a bonnet with a long gossamer veil, and a front of white frilling.

## A Correspondent writes :---

"The Cambridge undergraduates, now that the Easter vacation has begun, are dispersing to their various homes with a deep-rooted conviction that a 'flu term,' as they have dubbed the one just concluded, holds many possibilities of melancholy. 'It's perfectly beastly,' said one irate young student; 'when

the term began we all devoted ourselves to skating, and left our work till later on. And now the "flu" has knocked all our good resolutions into a cocked hat !' Work, excepting for the Nurses, has been almost at a standstill, for not only have the students been 'down' with the epidemic, but fellows, tutors, and coaches have been equal sufferers.

An old resident of Cambridge said : 'We are used to seeing parades of caps and gowns, but I never before saw so many bonnets and gowns of the Nursing profession in the town !'

In many instances it has been found quite impossible to provide a separate Nurse for each patient, so, in some of the colleges, one Night-Nurse has been in charge of a staircase, with perhaps three or four sick undergraduates under her care. In the daytime the Nurses have had to leave their patients to the somewhat amateur but kind mercies of their fellow-students, assisted somewhat by the bedmakers—or, to use local slang, the 'bedders'—a wonderful and antique race of beings who are responsible for the cleanliness and good order of the college 'diggings.'

An old college statute sets forth in Latin that no woman shall be appointed to the office of 'bedmaker' unless 'she is a widow and ill-favoured.' The majority of these worthy dames fulfil the latter condition. So, is it any wonder, as an invalid undergraduate expressed it, 'after being waited on all day by such an incongruous person, that we regard our trained Night-Nurses as being something only a little lower than the angels.'"

OF the writing of nursing books there seems no end, and yet, if asked to recommend a sound, reliable text-book, it is very difficult to give advice. A curious book has recently come under our notice, which the preface explains is an attempt to "adopt" Trained Nursing to the Cottage Home. It is difficult to know what this means; but certainly the teaching set forth is not indicative of Trained Nursing.

In the nursing of diphtheria no mention is made of a medical man, and it is set forth that "the painting of the throat with hydrochloric acid and glycerine, or glycerine alone, is the usual remedy." It then goes on to say: "Those attending cases of diphtheria can do so without fear. They should gargle occasionally, and take some nourishment. Hot milk or well-made coffee is the best." It is delightful news that Nurses attending diphtheria should "take some nourishment," but it seems rather rough that their rations should be limited to milk, or even well-made coffee.



