

ago, and even at so recent a date there were many old-fashioned practitioners in the city who shook their heads at the idea of "young ladies" attending upon the sick. At first it was considered that these delicate young persons must not be allowed to perform night duty; this being undertaken by a Canadian edition of "Mrs. Sairey" of old. But the scene is changed, although, unfortunately, it is not sufficiently changed, for a two years' training only is at present prescribed.

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At a recent meeting held in connection with the Hospital, the Chairman related a conversation he had had with a local doctor who protested against the expense incurred by the hiring of a trained Nurse. "Yes," said the Chairman, "but they save the life of the patient, and when life is at stake the cost is nothing."

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The Kingston General Hospital must abolish its system of sending out Probationers to do Private Nursing; until it does this it can hardly aspire to rank as a progressive Training School.

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THE *Volunteer Record* rejoices—and all Nurses and true women will join them in their rejoicings—that the Women's Medical Staff Corps has collapsed. The bullet of ridicule is the most deadly weapon of warfare, and the ladies who originated the idea of the corps were literally riddled with the missiles of chaff. That Volunteer Corps of *Nurses* to act in times of war, should exist, there can be no question, and it is to be hoped that the organisation set on foot some time since for this object, will soon be completed on working and definite lines.

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WE may add to the "humours of poultices," as set forth in the *RECORD* of last week, an amusing incident in connection with a linseed application which recently came under our observation.

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One bitterly cold night some weeks ago, we were waiting for an omnibus at the corner of rather a "slummy" street towards the East-end. It, however, must have had some pretensions to gentility, for we noticed a crossing-sweeper, a crippled lad, plying his trade along the muddy foot-path. His ragged coat gave an inadequate covering to his chest, whose inner condition was evidenced by harsh, hoarse coughs. But "somebody's" affection had been busy, and an amateur effort at a poultice had been made, for presently he was seen to remove a ghastly compound from his chest, and, going to a neighbouring hot chestnut stove, beg permission from its proprietor, to "hot up a cove's linsey batter."

## Medical Matters.

### PREMATURE BIRTHS.



ONE of the most difficult problems to be solved in obstetric nursing is the care of infants who have been prematurely born. It is well known, for example, that both the body heat and the powers of vitality of such infants, being immature, are below the amount necessary, as a rule, to ensure the continuance of life. A great improvement was made with the introduction of what is known as the incubator, a machine constructed on simple physiological principles, in the shape of a nest of cotton wool enclosed in a box artificially warmed and artificially ventilated. Many infants placed in such surroundings, and properly fed and cared for, have been reared, although born at the seventh month of foetal life. But a case has just been reported in Paris, which is of great importance in many ways—an infant who was born only in the sixth month, and who, when born, only weighed 30½ oz. It was apparently cared for, in some such artificial manner as that already described, and with great care was reared, at the present time being more than 2 years old. The case proves conclusively that no such premature birth is necessarily fatal, and it would encourage one, therefore, in many instances, not only to use the "incubator," but if that could not be obtained, to wrap the child in cotton wool and artificially maintain the body heat by placing hot water bottles round it in its cot.

### AN ANTI-CONTAGIUM SOCIETY.

AT Baku on the Caspian Sea the progress of sanitary knowledge has brought about a curious manifestation. A society has been formed with the above title, and with the professed object of abolishing the practice of kissing, or even hand-shaking, in order to do away with the dangers of disseminating the bacilli of disease which these habits are assumed to transmit. The society, it is curious to learn, has attained a considerable amount of success amongst the male part of the population who, it is reported, are joining it in large numbers. But a still more curious fact is that the ladies of the province have entered a solemn protest against the society, and in due form have presented a petition to the Governor General of the Province requesting him to immediately suppress and abolish the society as one whose proposals are contrary not only to public manners, but also to the general feelings of the population.

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