

Inventions, Preparations, &c.

ADVANCED DENTISTRY.

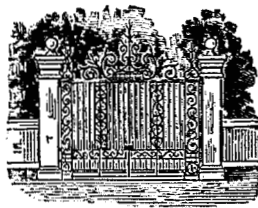
ONE of the greatest troubles of advancing civilisation is the early and rapid disease of the teeth, which appears to be inseparable from modern life. It is, therefore, of much importance that so far as possible incipient decay should be at once checked in order that the first and essential part of digestion, the mastication of the food, may be properly performed. Failing this, it is of the next importance that the degeneration should be limited and hindered as much as possible. The dentist, therefore, plays a very considerable part in the economy of modern life, and inasmuch as Nurses notoriously suffer above other women from disease of the teeth, because of the unhealthiness of the lives they are compelled to lead, we have much pleasure in stating that our attention has recently been drawn to the excellence of the work performed by the MacDonald Manufacturing Company of 122, High Holborn, W.C. The dental fittings which they make are of the very best quality, and we are informed by those who have had occasion to wear them that they are most comfortable and in every respect satisfactory. Considering the excellence of the work the prices are most moderate, and those of our readers who desire such preventive and curative aid would do well to avail themselves of the assistance and skill of the company we have named.

ODAMINE.

THIS is a non-poisonous fluid disinfectant, the value of which is by no means so widely known as it should be in the Nursing world. It has for many years been used with great effect in the disinfecting of farmsteads, stables, &c., and has been largely used in veterinary practice. Its valuable properties render it very deserving of use in hospital work, because it is not only non-poisonous but it effectually destroys noxious emanations and is a powerful bactericide. Its price is comparatively cheap, and the powder and fluid which are sold by the manufacturers, the Odams Chemical Company of 116, Fenchurch Street, E.C., are worthy of a wide trial by Nurses, especially by those engaged in private houses.

Outside the Gates.

THE CRY OF ISHMAEL AND HAGAR.



MADAM,—It is noticeable that in the very able and interesting discussion which has been going on in the NURSING RECORD on this pathetic subject, that your correspondents are all agreed

that illegitimate children should excite the pity and the sympathy of the public generally. Now, I have no knowledge, Madam, of the view you take as an individual, but I know enough of the broad-minded lines on which your paper is conducted to feel assured that you will allow me to present the matter from a point of view which I think has not yet been touched upon. In the abstract we should have room in our hearts for the fallen, the stray and the outcast, and we should sympathise with every manifestation of the suffering of humanity. But I should like to ask how the general public can be expected to show so much affectionate consideration for the illegitimate child when the *parents* themselves show such indifference and neglect. Parental feeling is said to be a natural instinct, but we see very little of this instinct—which among the lower animals is so strong—in those who are responsible for these so horribly miscalled “love-children.”

In these cases the mother has occasionally an elementary glimmering of affection towards the child she has so bitterly wronged, but the father in most instances behaves with the utmost callousness and brutality. When he has a position to maintain he may dole out a niggardly sum—generally the lowest possible payment that will save him from exposure—for the keep of the child that is just as much his by every moral law as if the conventional ceremony had been gone through. In other instances, where his position and reputation are of small moment, he has to be dragged into a law court to have extracted by forcible means the pitiful sum of five shillings a week which the administrators of our legal system have adjudged to be the worth of a little human child.

I should judge that in 80 per cent. of the cases the father escapes scot-free, either because the woman has too much self-respect to bring her shame to the open light of court—or, more often, because she knows that the father of her child would have no hesitation in swearing away the remnant of her reputation in order that he may escape the payment of this legal five shillings! Instead of regarding himself as the natural supporter and prop of his own

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