

on the subject might be regarded as a general threat only, which he did not think they would dare to enforce. Dr. G. B. POTTER also expressed the same opinion.

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Miss JANE WILSON, the President of the Midwives' Institute, had the courage of her opinions, and stated that they had not the slightest intention of asking for a Charter. They wanted nothing short of an Act. Ultimately, upon the proposal of Dr. LEITH NAPIER, it was agreed that it was desirable to obtain the passing of an Act for the Registration of Midwives, and Mr. SCHWANN, M.P., expressed his willingness to promote such a Bill in the next Session of Parliament, and a Sub-committee was chosen to draft it. A special Resolution was passed to the effect that it is in the interests of the poor women of England that the class of Midwives should be retained, and that the name should not in any way be changed as has been proposed.

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This last resolution alluded to the suggestion made by this Journal, and adopted by those who object to legalising the practice of an inferior order of midwifery practitioners, to the effect that women who desire to act as Midwives should be thoroughly qualified Nurses, and be termed Obstetric Nurses.

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A CORRESPONDENT from the Isle of Wight writes:—

"The typhoid epidemic at Newport, it is hoped, has seen its worst days. But the town, which spared a little outlay, before the steed was stolen, has now to expend an enormous amount upon sanitation. The action of the Queen in going to Osborne while her near neighbours were stricken with a disease which the Royal Family has every reason to dread, has called forth much loyal enthusiasm. It is hoped that her handsome grays will soon again be driving her through the old town of Newport to the beautiful and picturesque Carisbrooke Castle. This is the Queen's favourite, and almost daily, drive when at Osborne, but it has been thought wise, for a time, to arrange the drive in healthier districts.

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The County Council and the County Magistrates have long since found reason to regret their hasty and ill-considered flight from the town. But, unfortunately, the regret comes too late. They involved hundreds of others in their panic, and these migrated, with their wives and families, to various seaside resorts in the island; unfortunately taking the disease with them, so that local statistics by no means truly represent the number of cases.

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A noticeable feature of the outbreak is the large percentage of children who have been attacked, and the high death-rate among them. This is partly explained by the insanitary condition of the schools, and by the fact that none of the water supplied to them was previously boiled. The teachers said 'they had no time,' the caretakers 'wasn't going to bother when they had no orders,' and so the children suffered.

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It would appear that the 'gentleman that pays the rint'—the domestic pig—is as popular in Newport as in the Emerald Isle. Pigstyes are lavishly sprinkled through the whole town, and the perfume of the pig is as proverbial as the

'scents of Cologne.' At a public meeting, recently, a local worthy, whose chief industry is the rearing of potential bacon, became very indignant when one of the speakers hinted at the insanitation of piggeries. His language was strong and to the point, and his facts difficult to refute. 'Pigs,' he said, 'are the 'ealthiest of all animals. I've never knowed anyone ill where pigs is kept, and, as for that there typhoid, the pigs is as innocent of it as a new-born baby.'

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The Nurses at work among the poor in the town complained bitterly of the ignorance and bigotry of their patients and their patients' friends. All dietary restrictions were forgotten when the Nurse's back was turned, and many mothers openly boasted that they fed their children on gingerbread and bulls-eyes, and had them 'a-settin up before the fire,' when the Nurse had gone. The district nursing was managed on the house to house visitation principle. Some Nurses had as many as 20 fever patients to supervise, so that there was plenty of opportunity for eccentricities of nursing on the part of the friends.

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One of the most vexed questions was, whether the disease was caused by the sewer ventilating shafts. Controversial war raged, and is raging, keenly on this point; but all agree that, in many instances, the shafts were too near dwellings, and in all houses in close proximity to the shafts cases have arisen. Three small boys, during the epidemic, had the ill-fortune to select, for climbing purposes, a tree, amid the branches of which was one of the debateable shafts. They remained some time on their lofty perch, little thinking of the lurking danger. All three soon developed typhoid and two of them died.

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An old gentleman, who has been a bitter opponent of ventilators, was heard to hold forth as follows:—'Now, what I want to ask is this. If I have something dangerous, or which is likely to escape from a bottle, what do I do? Why I corks it up. And what I say is this: bottle up the sewer-air in the sewers, and when you've got it there cork it up. I don't care for science or sanitation; what I says is *bottle it up.*'

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A short walk in Newport convinces one that even if the system of sewer ventilation by shafts be sound in theory, it needs properly carrying out. Something has certainly gone wrong in the practical application of the theory. The dullest olfactory nerve (and residence in Newport would tend to paralyse the delicate distinctions of smell) must perceive that the gratings on the street level, which are supposed to act as inlets of fresh air, have, by some constitutional defect in construction, become perverted from their original plan, and are acting as outlets for sewer-air; so that the passers-by have no difficulty in tracing the way by which the typhoid germ gains entrance to his victims.

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The position of Newport is unfortunate, lying as it does in a hollow, with a large cemetery draining towards its water source. Quite recently, a hygiene student put into a nutshell the danger that this cemetery is to the Newport town-folk. She was asked, in an examination paper set to her, 'What possible danger, from a sanitary point of view, may arise from the wells of a town lying on a low level?' The young woman was not an educated person, but her answer shows that she has grasped some of the intricacies of water supply. She wrote: 'The possible danger of the town water supply being pumped from low wells, is cemeteries and churchyards. If these lie above the wells it often happens that the drainings from the graveyards run into the wells, and the water reaches the consumers flavoured with dead beings, which is not healthy.' The term 'flavoured' is delicious, and the precise terms of her answer lead one to the conclusion that she has long been familiar with the unique 'flavour of dead beings.'

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)