

again in full force." And it threatens us with an even worse condition of things than "a Lady-Nurse craze," when it states that "a scheme has been suggested, in a very high quarter, for the establishment of a Nursing Guild; to be composed entirely of ladies holding high positions in society." There are few professions which receive so many suggestions for guidance as that of Nursing, and we are growing so used to lay interference that we cease to look on such things seriously. But when it comes to seeking the patronage of the Archbishop of Canterbury and Cardinal Vaughan for such a preposterous scheme as a Guild of Nurses of Quality, we think the point of *reductio ad absurdum* has been reached. We wonder if there will be a rule enforced that these ladies shall wear "silken hose and satin shoes," as befitting their high degree. Common cotton gowns, linen aprons, and cambric caps would be quite beneath the dignity of such persons.

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AN inquest was recently held on the body of the female child of Mrs. Maurice Toms, the wife of a gasfitter, of 29, Warrington Road, North Kensington, which was found dead in bed with its mother at the Nursing Home of Mrs. Mary Ann Bouchier, of 20, Iffley Road, Hammer-smith. It appeared that Mrs. Toms had only been married three months, and although her husband was only earning 30s. a week, it was agreed to pay Mrs. Bouchier three guineas for the confinement, and 16s. 6d. a week for board and residence. The baby was found dead in bed with its mother at Mrs. Bouchier's (where she went to be confined), and the medical evidence showed that the baby had been suffocated.

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Here the dangers and ignorances of such "Nursing Homes" is very graphically illustrated, as it came out in the evidence that it was the custom of the house to leave patients alone the first night after confinement. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned, but the Coroner and jury concurred in the opinion that the deceased and its mother had not received adequate attention at the hands of Mrs. Bouchier, and they severely censured her for such inattention. Mrs. Toms gave as her reason for going to Mrs. Bouchier's that she had "a horror of doctors." We should think she will now have a horror of "Nursing Homes" of this sham kind.

THE Chelsea Board of Guardians last week confirmed the appointment of a Nurse, whose candidature had been considered, somewhat unsuitable, as she had a varicose vein. The doctor stated that the Nurse was quite fit for her work if she wore a stocking. Some discussion ensued, and one Guardian objected to the trouble the Board had got itself into through the medical examination of Nurses. The Nurse was called into the room, to be interviewed, and when she left—

Mr. Brass said: She wears spectacles, and what does the report say about her eyesight?

The Chairman: Nothing about it.

Mr. Brass: Then the certificate is not true, if she is short-sighted, and it does not say so.

The Chairman: Order, order.

Mr. Brass: Well, only last week a celebrated professor told me the doctor's certificates were not worth the paper they were written on.

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Now it is perfectly certain that Nurses, before entry into Hospital, should undergo a physical test as to fitness, as soldiers must who enter the army. No woman with a varicose vein can do Hospital work without a vast amount of suffering and injury to herself. At a large London Training School matters are quite Trilbyesque, and all Nurses wishing to enter have to subject their feet and legs to medical inspection, so that flat-footedness, or a tendency to varicose veins, or any deformity, may at once be detected; and no doubt a greater efficiency is thereby obtained. But it seems rather hard to draw the line, as Mr. Brass did, at spectacles.

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THE heading, "How Infection is Spread," constantly meets the eye in the columns of the daily Press. The circulating library is now branded as a medium of infection, it having been asserted that patients *hors de combat* after scarlet fever are vociferous readers of fiction during the lingering stages of convalescence, and cull their material from the circulating library. If this be true, to what terrible risks the public is exposed, but we hope that persons who have suffered from this lingering and dangerous illness are more conscientious than to expose their fellow-creatures to its ravages; any way, the trained Nurse would soon nip such a proceeding in the bud.

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On Saturday a poor fellow was condemned at Worship Street Police Court to a month's imprisonment with hard labour for stealing a jug of milk. After being removed from the dock, the pri-

CARLSBAD—the renowned Spa in Bohemia—has been thronged this summer with patients suffering from all kinds of liver and gouty complaints, who have reaped great benefit from taking the celebrated waters; but it is not sufficiently known that persons unable to visit the Spa can obtain the natural Carlsbad Sprudel Salts or Waters at all Chemists, Stores, &c. To distinguish the natural salts from artificial imitations, note the names on wrapper of "LOEBEL SCHOTTLARNDER, CARLSBAD," and INGRAM & ROYLE, Ltd., Sole Agents, 52, Farringdon Street, E.C.; 19, South John Street, Liverpool; 80, Redcliff Street, Bristol. Pamphlet on application.

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