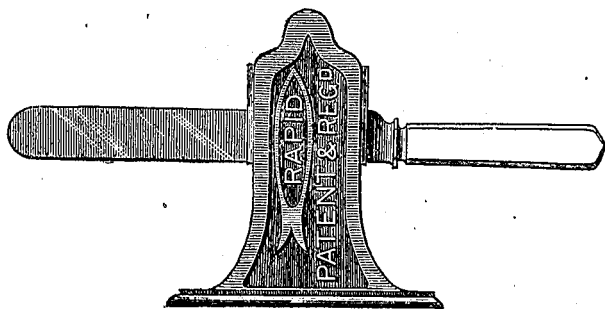


**Inventions, Preparations, &c.**

**A RAPID KNIFE SHARPENER.**

A PERENNIAL difficulty in hundreds of Hospital wards is how to sharpen the knives. Many a Sister finds her daily duty of serving out the dinners made enormously more onerous in consequence of the difficulty of keeping her carving knives properly sharpened. We have, therefore, much pleasure in drawing attention to a novel and very useful knife cleaning and sharpening machine, as shown in the accompanying illustration. It is asserted that by its



means time is saved and cleanliness is secured without the powder and mess caused by most machines, and with a corresponding economy in labour. The price of the machine is only half-a-crown, and it is said that, with ordinary care, it will last a lifetime. We commend this useful and valuable invention to the notice of our readers. It can be obtained from all Stores and Ironmongers, or direct from the "Rapid" Company, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

**MELLIN'S FOOD.**

MESSRS. MELLIN have issued a charming little book which might be described as the evolution of a picture, and which, at the same time that it reminds the owner of the excellence of Messrs. Mellin's Food, gives a picturesque illustration of the various processes which are gone through in the production of a colour block. The various stages through which the Cupid which appropriately forms the trademark of Mellin's Food for Infants passes, is shown by a series of twelve pictures, representing the separate processes which must be applied before the delicately-coloured picture is produced. In the first illustration the whole figure of the child Cupid, who is poised on a delicate flowered branch of a tree above a lake,

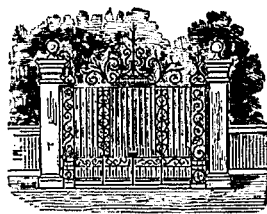
is given in outline only. Next in the series shows the same figure with the flesh pink-tinted, followed by the next which fills in the yellow tones, and so on through a series of combinations of colours printed separately and in combination till the whole picture is complete. This little book gives an excellent idea to those unacquainted with the details of colour printing of the infinite care and pains necessary to produce a complete coloured picture. And the object-lesson is conveyed in a delicately-tinted little book which it is a pleasure to possess, and is a credit to the designers.

**SUPPORTS FOR THE FEET.**

ONE of the most painful affections from which Nurses suffer, and to which, in consequence of their work, they are especially liable, is the falling of the arch of the foot, and the consequent condition known as "flat foot." There have been various methods proposed to prevent this accident, and one of the most ingenious and practical is that which has recently been submitted to us by Mr. James Pond, of 23, Castle Meadow, Norwich. It consists briefly of an artificial arch for the foot on anatomical principles, and which, in the form of a leather sole, can be easily adjusted to any boot or shoe. Those of our readers who unfortunately suffer from this complaint would therefore do well to obtain further particulars of this appliance from the inventors at the address above given.

**Outside the Gates.**

**WOMEN.**



THE seventh Annual Conference of Women Workers will be held at Nottingham, October 21st to 26th, under the presidency of Lady Laura Ridding, head of the Southwell Branch of the Women's League for Mothers and Women in positions of responsibility. The meetings will be held on the four following days. Among the subjects for discussion are: (1) Technical classes for women and girls under the County Councils. (2) State regulations affecting women's work. (3) The probable effect on the position of women of granting them the Parliamentary Suffrage. (4) The work of women in country districts—(a) What a lady can do in a country village; (b) Rural district nursing. (5) The placing out of

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