

being personally addressed by his Sovereign, and that great event actually befel him. Attracted by his splendid physique and soldierly bearing when he was drawn up in convalescent line along the departure jetty, Her Majesty halted before him, and asked how many years' service he had seen. Few who were present on the occasion will forget the Queen's hearty laughter at the terror and bewilderment of the poor fellow's countenance as he gasped out:—"Twenty-nine years,—Miss!" On questioning him afterwards it was ascertained that the title "Ma'am" had chaotically suggested itself as suitable to the royal personality, but that he had adopted the other as the more distinctly respectful and gallant term of address.

* * *

ON the occasion of one of her periodical visits to the Royal Victoria Hospital at Southampton the Queen, meaning to make a longer inspection than usual, notified beforehand her intention of lunching at the Hospital, and the staff were much exercised as to the most acceptable bill of fare to prepare for her, until one of the doctors solved the difficulty by writing to consult the comptroller of the Royal Household, who informed him that a simple sweetbread and roast apples would satisfy the Royal requirements. About three weeks afterwards the messman was sent into Southampton to procure a dish of sweetbreads for an officer who was sick, but he returned unsuccessful; since the visit of Her Majesty it appeared that every sweetbread in the neighbourhood was bespoke a week before its owner was killed. For some time the fashion for sweetbreads remained in vogue by people desirous of imitating the Royal taste in luncheons.

* * *

MR. SCOTT BATTAMS writes the following interesting letter to the *Medical Times*, endorsing the plan of using a glass syringe as a "feeding cup," recommended by Dr. Aulad in a letter to that journal, and which we published last week:—

"Allow me to endorse Dr. Aulad's remarks in your last issue on the value of this simple method of feeding the sick. If everyone consulted his *Medical Digest* before giving his experiences and 'tips' to his brethren, much that was helpful in the last generation would be lost to this.

During the many years I was Resident Medical Officer to the East London Children's Hospital, this method of feeding was in constant use. In an article 'On the Forced Feeding of Children,' published in the *Lancet* in 1883, I thus refer to it:—"The glass syringe, with a piece of rubber tubing slipped over its nozzle, is a very useful apparatus for administering food by the mouth. In the infants' ward at the East London Hospital there are always five or six children being fed by this means since I first introduced it. The Sister of the ward, whose skill and devotion make her opinion valuable, says it is one of the simplest and

most useful little devices for feeding the sick with which she is acquainted. After operation for harelip all our infants are now fed by this means. It may, in many cases, with advantage, be substituted for the feeding bottle, spoon, feeding cup, and other sick room utensils. The tube should be lightly placed between the lips and the fluid very gently syringed into the mouth. . . . It is equally useful in the case of adults. A patient can thus be fed without any change in his position, whatever that may be. Take, for instance, the case of a heavy man prostrated by some painful illness; in such a case any movement may be as injurious to the patient as it is painful. What is the not uncommon process of feeding in such cases? A heavy, helpless patient is raised by some fragile Nurse, with pain to one and discomfort to both, to a more or less constrained position; beef-tea is presented to him in a feeding cup, or open utensil; he gulps down a portion and the remainder probably runs over him; he falls back, thankful the operation is over, and neither party looks forward to its repetition with pleasure. Now with a syringe and tube the same amount of fluid may be gently syringed into the patient's mouth without the least change of position on his part; he need not even trouble himself to suck. The child may feed the man. It becomes the very poetry of sick feeding."

* * *

IT is always encouraging to hear that patients appreciate the treatment they obtain in Hospitals. But it is indeed rare to hear of so high a value being attached to medicines as appeared to be the case in a matter which came recently before a London magistrate. The prosecutor had been to the Brompton Hospital as a patient and had been given two bottles of medicine. On his homeward way he left the bottles on a table in the third-class waiting room at Paddington Station while he went to procure his ticket. An elderly man, Alexander Carpenter, seeing the bottles and doubtless hoping they contained medicine of a very different sort, picked up the bottles and walked off. The prosecutor followed him and in the indictment put the value of the medicines at ten shillings—a valuation which is very flattering to the prescriber at the Brompton Hospital. A sentence of six months' hard labour, owing to a previous conviction, will keep Mr. Carpenter from picking and stealing medicine bottles for some time to come.

* * *

THE School of Nursing connected with the Mater Misericordiæ Hospital of Dublin was started some three years ago for the training of educated ladies of the Roman Catholic faith. The probationers of this Hospital must not only be well educated, but must have some social status. The training is for three years.

* * *

The Hospital is in charge of Sisters of Mercy who are responsible for the nursing and for the training of the probationers. Although the Nursing staff is paid the Sisters receive no

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)