

motion of Dr. Rabagliati, seconded by Dr. Campbell. Dr. Wood who acknowledged the compliment, said that those who concerned themselves in the preparation of the candidates had been amply rewarded by the satisfactory result of their work. The nurses had shown great intelligence and much appreciation of the efforts of the lecturers. Dr. Goyder proposed, and Mr. Fawcett seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr. Lupton for his gift of book prizes, who, in responding, referred in terms of satisfaction to the approaching completion of the nurses' home.

A delightful social gathering then took place in the apartments of the lady superintendent, where afternoon tea was provided for a large number of guests interested in the welfare of the hospital and nursing school.

#### A NEW QUALIFICATION.

MUCH has been written on the question of whether or no a nurse should take her bicycle amongst other luggage when attending private cases, and good arguments have been used for and against the practice. It may, therefore, interest members of the profession to learn that one leading specialist who treats a large number of nervous cases, invariably inquires "if the nurse can bicycle," and directs that she should take her machine when sent to nurse his patients. First of all, he considers "biking" excellent treatment for many nervous women; and, secondly, a magnificent nerve- tonic for nurses in close attendance on this class of case.

#### "THE CHRISTIAN."

THIS story, by Mr. Hall Caine, which has been running through the *Windsor Magazine*, has, during the past week, been published in volume form, and the heroine, who begins life in London as a probationer at "Martha's Vineyard," ultimately gravitates to her natural sphere—the music-hall stage. We do not intend to review this work, as we are no admirer of Mr. Hall Caine's realistic methods "laid on with a trowel." But we must once again enter a protest against the cruelly false caricature of life in a Nursing School presented to the public by Mr. Hall Caine in his latest novel. The discipline and high tone maintained by the majority of matrons in our Nursing Schools and hospital wards is indisputable, and this libel on life in a hospital cannot be too severely condemned.

## Cow's Milk in Infant Feeding.\*

BY WALTER G. MURPHY, M.D.

(Continued from page 104.)

THAT milk should ferment on exposure is entirely consistent with our present knowledge of the germ theory of suppuration and fermentation in wounds. Exactly the same principles apply to milk as to any tissue of the body. To-day a surgeon who should undertake an operation of almost any grade and neglects the principles of asepsis or antisepsis, would be considered behind the age, if not criminally liable. The influence of bacteria on healthy tissue is now understood and appreciated, and it is only necessary to witness the technique of a modern scientific operation to realise that no detail is too trivial which will the more effectually prevent infection of the wound. Surely we cannot plead ignorance, in neglecting this important question, of the proper care and management of milk, especially that intended for infants and invalids.

As one carefully considers this subject of cow's milk in infant feeding, and realises the close intimacy of the mortuary statistics with the milk question, the desire for good milk becomes intensified, particularly when we contemplate the misery and sickness directly traceable to poisoned milk and are confronted with the fact that artificial feeding is on the increase. That a large part of the mortality in cities is traceable to cow's milk is proven by statistics. Dr. Coit, in a paper on the "Causation of Disease by Milk," says:—

"It is claimed that twenty per cent. of all who are born to man in large centres of population die during the so-called nursing period; that nearly thirty per cent. of all deaths in many large cities from all causes and in all periods of life are infants of the first year, due to a lack of physical resistance in city children, resulting from a want of suitable food; that it has been claimed that sixty per cent. of children, hand-fed during infancy, perish before they are five years of age; that the mortality from nutritional disorders, directly or indirectly, during the first year, comprises nearly ninety per cent. of the whole; that so-called cholera infantum and the summer diarrhoeas among children are now

\* Read at the semi-annual meeting of the Hartford County Medical Association, Hartford, Conn., April 21st, 1897.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)