

### Annotations.

#### THE CROYDON CONTROVERSY.

The Croydon Board of Guardians having deprived Miss Julian, the Matron of their Infirmary, of the position of Superintendent of Nursing, which she had held during the whole of her term of office, now find themselves in a somewhat difficult position, as it is, of course, essential that some one should perform the duties of the latter office. They therefore propose to appoint a Superintendent of Nurses, who shall be a fully trained and certificated nurse and experienced in the training of probationers or be possessed of a medical and surgical qualification registered by the Medical Council.

The absurdity of the latter proposition is self-evident. The performance of the practical duties of a nurse, and the best methods of nurse training, form no part of the education of a medical practitioner and we do not believe that any medical woman (or is the appointment open to men?) who values her professional status, would accept such a position, or consent to make her medical qualification secondary to the doubtful honour of acting as Superintendent of the Nursing Staff in an Infirmary where the Matron is well qualified to act, and for years has acted, in this capacity.

But this by no means sums up the case. The Guardians have so little regard for the pockets of the ratepayers, that they propose to pay this unnecessary officer £75 or £100 per annum in addition to furnished apartments, rations, and the usual residential allowances, which in all cannot be estimated at less than £100 a year. The injustice to the ratepayers was brought forward by Mr. Owen in the course of the discussion which followed on the report of the Workhouse Visiting Committee on which the matter was brought up, and another member of the Board gave notice that he would move at the next meeting that the report be rescinded, and that he would move a resolution bearing on the whole question of the Infirmary Staff. The Board, however, decided that another Superintendent of Nurses should be appointed. If the Guardians have so little consideration for the pockets of the ratepayers as to involve them in this outrageous expenditure, it is to be hoped that these victims will look after their own interests and appoint at the next election representatives who will consider their welfare, as well as the efficiency of the nurse training school.

### The Nursing of Children's Diseases.

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#### LECTURE I.

##### DIGESTION.

The digestive system comprises the mouth, the œsophagus, stomach, small and large intestines, and certain glands as the salivary glands, the liver, and the pancreas, or sweetbread. The natural food of an infant—Milk—passes from the mouth almost unchanged, as saliva is not secreted for the first few months of life in any quantity. In the stomach, the milk is first coagulated by a special ferment, and then acted upon by the hydrochloric acid and pepsin secreted by the glands of the organ, which changes the insoluble proteids into soluble peptones, which can then easily pass through the walls of the stomach into the blood, whence they are carried away to nourish the tissues. The stomach, it will be remembered, is a muscular bag, the contractions of which are excited by the pressure of food; churning movements thus produced, mixing the food with the gastric juices, and finally, after about two hours, ejecting what remains in the organ into the small intestine. Here the chyme, as the mass is then called, meets the bile secreted by the liver, and the "juice" secreted by the pancreas, which breaks up the fat of the milk into small particles (emulsification), and forms part of the fat into soap (saponification). Later in life these secretions form sugar from the starch of the food, and also form peptones from any proteid which is not dissolved in the stomach. The transformed elements of food then are gradually absorbed into the blood and lymphatic vessels, which are very numerous in the small intestines, while the undissolved remains are gradually propelled down the intestine by its peristaltic, or wavelike movements till they reach the large intestine or colon, from which they are ejected by defæcation.

In older children the mouth takes more part in digestion of food than in the infant for the saliva has the property of helping to digest starch by changing it into dextrine and sugar.

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