

AT THE LONDON SHOE COMPANY.

Boots and shoes form a serious consideration to nurses at all times, and more especially as winter approaches. The chief desiderata are that they are strong, smart, and comfortable. It frequently seems as if these three things in combination are unobtainable, but those who hold this belief have surely never visited the depôts of the London Shoe Company, where boots and shoes of every variety of shape, size, and price are to be seen, and which are smart enough to satisfy the most fastidious. The West End Depôts of the London Shoe Company, Limited, are at 116 and 117, New Bond Street, and 21 and 22, Sloane Street, S.W., while the head office in the City is at 123, Queen Victoria Street.

AT MESSRS. BAILEY'S.

It is always a pleasure to visit Messrs. Bailey's new showroom at 2, Rathbone Place (one door from Oxford Street), for to those interested in aseptic ward furniture, the array is most fascinating, and what is more the price is most moderate. We rarely visit Messrs. Bailey's without seeing some novelties, and a recent visit was no exception to the rule. Very noticeable was a screen, the frame-work of which is of tubular iron, enamelled white, mounted on castors. The panels, which are laced on, are of stout, red canvas, which can easily be removed and boiled. A combined instrument table and cabinet is a marvel of cheapness at £5. The total height is 52in. The table, mounted on brass castors, with india-rubber tyres, has a plate-glass shelf, while the dust-proof cabinet, also of plate-glass, has three shelves for instruments. It is difficult to imagine a piece of furniture which would be more useful for a theatre or ward. A cheap form of dressing waggon, with two plate-glass shelves, 25in. by 16in., with a drawer having three divisions under the top shelf, is priced £2 15s., also on castors. Bailey's special operating table of enamelled iron throughout, with a gutter and trough for drainage, and adjustable to any position, must also be mentioned. The price is £13 10s.

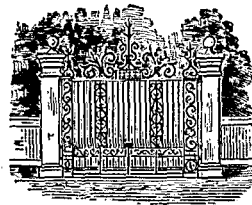
We were much attracted by a ward centre cabinet table. This was 6ft. long by 3ft. 3in. wide, with a stout plate-glass top, enamelled white underneath. The table is of polished wood, and has three drawers, and three cupboards on either side, the knobs of which are of glass.

A solution stand, taking four bottles, which hold four gallons each, was specially noticeable by reason of the nickel-plated handles for tilting the bottles, by means of which they can be emptied.

Lastly, must be mentioned an aluminium coil for the head, which is kept filled with iced water. The cap, with rubber tubing complete, costs 18s., and can be boiled when necessary.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



We regret to report that the Legislative Council of New South Wales has negatived the second reading of the Woman's Franchise Bill by twenty-six votes to twenty-one. It is, however, hopeful that the voting was so close on a Bill which, if carried, would have given women their seat in Parliament. It at least shows that this reform has been brought into the sphere of practical politics in New South Wales.

The *Humanitarian* for October has a stirring article on "A Rôle for Women in Society," above which Mrs. Gerald Paget has had the courage to place her name. It should be widely read, and will repay study. Speaking of the life of the late Queen, Mrs. Paget says:—"The Queen was simply an earnest, capable woman to whom fell the accident of Queenship. It was an accident which placed her above the imposed limitations of men, above the slavish obstruction of women, above the jarring necessity of a struggle for recognition. It was the accident which was needed to show what a free woman can become; it was in the fierce light that beats upon a throne that the possibilities of women have been made manifest to all mankind. The Queen's glorious and successful reign has been a justification of the highest aspirations of her sex."

After a powerful arraignment of "smart society," Mrs. Paget continues, "the greatest indictment against women in Society is that, whereas they belonged to the strongest and most influential class, they of all others of their sex did the least to add to its lustre. They had no ideals themselves, and they simply made martyrs of women who had—women whose genius and whose courage earned for them a grudging but undying fame; for who does not know that the life of each 'new woman' has been one long agony; one long distressful struggle against the ignorance and prejudice of the women—more shame to them—as well as the men; and who does not know that the seeds of such fruits as the higher education of women, and the acceptance of the principle of her right to her own individuality, now recognizable in many of our laws, were sown in tears and torment, amidst the jeers and sneers of those who have since profited by them? It has been a reckless waste of great human potentialities, for who can tell the extent of the injury that has been done to the race at large by the mental and moral degradation of the wives and mothers of England? When we compare what women have proved they can do with what a short half century ago it was arrogantly asserted they could *not* do, it makes one shudder to think what intellects may not have been crushed out of being by the presence of sex jealousy, or even by mere obstruction. It is the inalienable right of the individual to have a chance in the battle of life. The enlightened woman has applied this axiom to herself, and has established her own individuality."

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