

of thin sheet iron, superposed and separated one from the other some 3 in. or 4 in. by a few ornamental wheel pattern gratings, which were coloured a brilliant red. The lower cylinder was finished with a nickel-plated cone, against which the little red wheels stood out in strong relief and through a small opening at the top of this bright cone there peeped one solitary and small gas burner of the most ordinary kind. The upper cylinder was finished off with a grating top and some pretentious cast-iron edging. The impudent pretence of the whole contrivance was, that this wretched little burner was capable of heating spaces of fabulous dimensions, and the stove was recommended for churches, chapels, and wherever man had need of warmth. The writer found four of these stoves actually fitted up in a Baptist chapel in Bedfordshire, and the deacons were quite distressed because they had proved such a failure, for they had cost some £16 to put in. Perhaps the last of these deceptions was to be seen a year or two ago in a Bodega, not far from Fleet Street; it has gone now, and a gas radiator reigns in its stead. These stoves were really worse than useless, for, as we saw in the last article, they generated large quantities of carbonic acid gas, which they liberated well below the human mouth and, therefore, were poisoning the surrounding air the whole time they were alight. Yet they were sold in thousands during a couple of seasons, and their manufacturer must have netted a little fortune with them. Happily, they are now extinct, but other inventions, and nearly as bad, have come to take their place. All stoves that claim to do wonders with a single flame, be it gas or oil, round or flat, atmospheric (*i.e.*, burning with an almost colourless, bluish light) or ordinary, may safely be taken as doing very little more than that same flame would do if burnt nakedly, and without all the pretentious paraphernalia surrounding it. For the money spent on gas or oil for these things far better results can be secured from common coal burnt in an ordinary grate, and then the air will not be poisoned with noxious fumes.

Let the reader be warned. The ventilating quack is active, but his heating brother is not less busy or prepared to gull any comer. The rubbish referred to is chiefly to be met in the shops of ironmongers and oilmen. These people sell these things innocently enough; they are unconsciously aiding and abetting deception, and that is all, for they know nothing about such things, and care less. The manufacturer is the guilty one, for he is robbing the guileless with his eyes open.

(To be continued.)

Dr. Dakin has accepted the invitation of the Midwives' Institute to represent its members on the Central Midwives' Board in the place of Dr. Cullingworth, who has resigned his seat.

The City Financiers' Scheme to Control Nurses.

In the House of Commons on Monday afternoon, Mr. T. Healy, member for Louth, N., asked the President of the Board of Trade, if the Board has received an application for a licence to incorporate a society for the higher education of nurses, from gentlemen unconnected with medicine or surgery; and, if so, do the Board still adhere to the view expressed in a letter written by the Board on August 6th, 1891, to Dr. Bedford Fenwick, in which it was stated that it appeared to the Board of Trade that they were not competent to determine the very important questions connected with the establishment of a register of nurses, which should be settled before the register can be effectively established; and that, under the circumstances, the Board of Trade were unable to grant the desired licence to the Royal British Nurses' Association; and that the Board were convinced that full inquiry (by competent authorities) into all the facts and circumstances of the case, and into the objections that have been raised, should precede any further steps on the part of the Government; and whether, if any change has since taken place in the policy of the Board in dealing with the question of the registration of nurses, he can indicate the nature and grounds of such change.

Mr. Gerald Balfour, in answer to Mr. Healy, said "An application has been received by the Board of Trade for a licence to incorporate under Section 23 of the Companies Act, 1867, without the word 'limited,' a society for the higher education of nurses. The proposed Memorandum and Articles of Association, which have been submitted to the Board of Trade, are subscribed by seven gentlemen, none of whom are members of the medical or surgical profession, one of whom, however, is the chairman of a London hospital. The Board of Trade propose to hear both the applicants and the objectors to the grant of a licence, and until after such hearing do not propose to come to any decision as to policy or otherwise."

The Societies of Nurses, which, by their well-timed opposition, have gained this hearing from the Board of Trade, must now take steps to see that their case is well represented to the Board.

On Wednesday last Mr. Black (Banffshire) asked the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether the President would withhold his decision as to granting a licence to the Society for Promoting the Higher Education of Nurses until the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the registration of nurses had reported.

Mr. Bonar Law replied: The Board of Trade propose to hear both the applicants and the objectors, and until after such hearing do not propose to come to any decision as to postponement or otherwise.

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