

but hygienic according to our present ideas of the subject.

In the reigns of Queen Mary and Elizabeth the washing of clothes was unknown. Cotton was hardly in use, and linen was expensive. The poor wore rough, woollen garments which were never washed, and the better classes adorned themselves with silks and velvets which were dyed when they would no longer pass muster in regard to cleanliness. Floors were made of loam and strewn with rushes, which, acting like the cloak of Charity, covered a multitude of sins in the shape of scraps of bone, fragments of meat, and crusts of bread, and became a veritable hotbed of disease. These were seldom taken up for fresh rushes to be laid down—the new simply concealed the old—but continued to accumulate, frequently for years, and, said the lecturer, he need not describe the horrors of the Plague, in which 100,000 persons died in consequence of the filthy habits of the time.

It is recorded, continued Dr. Hastings, that the monarch, James I. of England and VI. of Scotland, never washed either hands or face during the period he posed as the wisest fool in Christendom, but confined his cleanliness within the narrow limits of wiping his finger-tips upon a damp napkin.

A very simple experiment, made by an eminent bacteriologist, determines in a startling manner the potential dangers associated with accumulations of dust in living rooms. A pin point was used to convey as much dust as so small a vehicle will carry. This yielded no less than 3,000 colonies of living germs when cultivated on gelatine, and although fortunately every species was not representative of disease, yet the majority were potent sources of decomposition and danger to health.

With the advent of bacteriology, science has opened up other worlds for conquest and the microscopic enemies of man are continually spied upon by an increasingly diligent Intelligence Department, which promises to disclose every fact that is necessary for their destruction. One of these accords very closely with a cardinal rule adopted by tacticians in actual warfare, which directs that supplies shall, wherever practicable, be cut off from the enemy. Therefore, said the lecturer, his insistence upon the policy of getting rid of dust and dirt, wherein noxious germs find pabulum that enables them to continue their existence.

### Legal Matters.

At Cheltenham last week Mrs. Annie Nation, stated to be a nurse, was charged on remand with stealing two diamond and gold rings, the property of the executor of the late Miss Ransford. The nurse's defence was that in the case of one of the rings it was given to her by the deceased lady, and the other she knew nothing about. The extreme improbability of such a gift being made was pointed out by the prosecution as the nurse had been in the house only some twenty-four hours, and was previously a complete stranger to the deceased. After hearing the evidence the accused, who pleaded "Not guilty," was committed for trial on the charge of stealing one ring, value £30.

### Central Midwives' Board.

At the recent examination of the Central Midwives' Board, held in London and the Provinces, 486 candidates were examined and 367 were successful in passing the examination. The percentage of failures was 24.5.

### Clapham School of Midwifery Examination.

The second open examination of the Clapham School of Midwifery was held at the Clapham Maternity Hospital on Saturday, February 9th. It consisted of three parts: the writing of a paper (questions subjoined), occupying from 9 to 12 o'clock, followed at 3 p.m. by a *viva voce*, and finally by a clinical examination in the wards.

It is found to be of advantage to the candidates to have the whole examination completed in one day; and the fatigue of this plan was minimised by the fact that the candidates were supplied with hot milk and biscuits in the middle of writing the paper in the morning, and with tea in the afternoon before the clinical examination, as well as having three hours for rest and food between the examinations.

The Clapham Examination is intended primarily for midwifery pupils who, intending to practise as fully-trained obstetric nurses in England or as missionaries abroad and not as district midwives, do not require to be registered as midwives, but *do* desire to possess some proof of having been trained in midwifery. Secondly, it is intended for candidates for the Central Midwives' Examination, who, in addition to becoming registered midwives, wish to be able to produce a certificate showing at which school of midwifery they were trained.

The names of twenty-two candidates were entered from various schools, but from illness and other causes only nineteen presented themselves. Of these four passed "with distinction" (*i.e.*, with above four-fifths of the marks), eleven "passed," and four failed to satisfy the examiners. The names of the successful candidates are as follows:—

*Passed with Distinction:* Misses Pye, Oats, Young, Taylor. *Passed:* Kelsey, Banner, Ogilvie; Edworthy, Firmin, Woodruffe, equal; Farjasse, Fisher (Nora); Beardmore, D'Alton, Hodges, equal.

### EXAMINATION QUESTIONS.

February, 1906.

1. What are the difficulties and dangers of a twin pregnancy?
2. What drugs are given in connection with labour? Which are poisons? When are they to be given? Give doses.
3. How would you deal with a premature baby (seven months) during the first month?
4. How would you prepare to make a vaginal examination, and what can you find out by it?
5. How would you manage a breech presentation in a multipara?
6. What conditions may lead to rise of temperature during the puerperal period; how would you distinguish between them?

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