

to eat the barley, it may be strained off and the liquor only drunk sweetened with sugar, or better, with syrup of lemons for a fever; some mix it with milk hot from the cow, but this is not common."

Snails entered largely into the composition of broths and waters for consumptive patients, as also in the preparation of artificial asses' milk, in which case the snails were bruised in their shells before they were boiled.

The same gelatinous consistency gave a special value to pork as a material for broth; but all recipes add the proviso that the broth is to be given to an invalid only "if the stomach will bear it." The composition of meat and the characteristics of albumen and extractives were not clearly understood, for all broths are ordered to be made by plunging the meat into boiling water. Occasionally, the meat, weighing about a pound, has to be boiled for half an hour, so that it may be served at table. With broth of this kind an invalid would fare badly; but even that was better than what was known as beef tea. The beverage tea was in the early days of its introduction, and was regarded as quite a luxury. It was known that it should be prepared as an infusion, and not as a decoction, so naturally the same method was adopted in preparing beef tea which was regarded as something superior to beef broth. The following recipe shows the method of preparing it. "In some cases when the sick person be very weak, the physician will order beef-tea which must be made thus: Take a piece of lean beef, cut it cross and cross, and then pour on it scalding water. Cover it up close, and let it stand till it be cold. Then pour it off as you want it, season it moderately, and give it to the sick person, having first warmed it." In addition to the opposition to principles of the chemistry of cookery as far as we know them at the present time, there is a noticeable absence of definiteness of instruction. Strong beef-tea could not possibly be made by carrying out the directions, but it is alarming to think how weak such an infusion might be made.

Any invalid that managed to survive a course of old-fashioned nostrums and invalid fare was promoted, when convalescent, to fish of the plaice and flounder type, and after a course of chickens, pigeons and partridges was able to resume the hearty fare which formed the good cheer of the folks of long ago.

Dr. Arnold Humphreys has been appointed Examiner to the Probationers of the London Hospital in the place of the late Dr. Hayward, who for some time acted in that capacity.

The Home School for Private Nurses at Paris.

(Translated from the French.)

By MISS EDLA R. WORTABET.

An article has recently appeared in a French nursing paper, the (*Bulletin Professionnel des Infirmières et Gardes Malades*) with reference to the training school for private and children's nurses in the Rue Vercingétorix. It is written by Mademoiselle Chaptal, its secretary, who is well known in Paris for her good work for those amongst the labouring classes suffering from the white plague (tuberculosis), and who is now taking a keen interest in raising the tone of nursing in France. She writes:—

Up to the day when, towards 1860, a large-hearted woman—Miss Florence Nightingale—conceived the generous idea of consecrating her life to raising the level of London hospitals, the nursing staffs of English hospitals consisted of the lowest stratum of the population. Today, the body of nurses throughout the United Kingdom is of a moral and social level, to say the least of it, equal to the teaching body.

"With us," wrote Monsieur Ogier in 1903 Minister of the Interior and General Inspector of the Administrative Services, in his report presented at the Third Congress of the public and private *Assistance Publique* at Bordeaux, "things are not the same. The conception of an *infirmière*, amongst the general public, is still vague. She is considered much more, as a sort of a servant, who, at the same time that she performs her domestic duties and sees to the cleanliness of the wards, over and above attends to the wants of the sick, that is, distributes at stated hours the medicines which have been ordered. As to thinking that she might be, in the nursing of the sick, a scientific necessity, a member of a superior order, the collaborator of the doctor, this is far from their imagination. She is looked upon simply as a domestic. . . . Moreover, the parents of small tradespeople or artizans frequently think of educating their daughters as teachers: as nurses never."

Since these lines were written, several generous private enterprises have initiated the movement which must change such a deplorable condition of things in France, and honour is due to the above-mentioned paper, in having pointed it out to the public. It was to take part in trying to remedy this state of things that the Home School of private nurses was founded in Paris in 1905 through the energy of a woman whose recent death has been a loss to the whole country—I mean Madame H. Taine. This institution is under the

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