

Association, and were made very bright and attractive for the occasion.

A large number were present, who much appreciated the privilege afforded them of meeting Miss Manley and Mrs. Stewart—well-known names to all masseuses. Miss Vincent's sweet, clear voice and happily-chosen songs gave great pleasure to all. Miss McNeill, President, and Miss L. V. Haughton, Hon. Secretary, were indefatigable in their efforts to make the afternoon a complete success.

#### ULSTER BRANCH IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

A most interesting and spirited debate on Women's Suffrage was held in the Club-room of the Ulster Branch of the Irish Nurses' Association, Belfast, on the 27th January. About 42 members of the nursing profession were present. Lady Hermione Blackwood, President of the Association, occupied the chair, and said that as it was the very first debate held by the Association it would be advisable for her to read to the audience a few rules which had been laid down for the guidance of debaters in order that discussions should not end in wrangles or tête-à-tête conversations. She then introduced the first speaker, the Hon. Ethel McNaghten, who put forward the resolution that "It was to the advantage of the State that women should have the franchise." She spoke most ably and convincingly, and in defence of the tactics of the militant Suffragists said that peaceful and constitutional methods had been tried in vain for the past 40 years, and that if we went back to the records of the tactics adopted by the working men when they were agitating for extension of the franchise we should find that these "constitutional" methods had included the burning of public buildings and parks and the sacking of houses. Miss Clarke, a member of the Board of Guardians of the Belfast Union, opposed the motion in a most bright and witty speech, and greatly amused her hearers. She said that no woman had ever distinguished herself either in music, literature, or art to the same extent as men had, and that in financial matters they were singularly incapable. Dr. Marion Andrews, who spoke on the same side (by request) said that she thought women were always swayed by the opinion of the last speaker they had heard. Miss Hare Foster, in support of the resolution, said that she knew of two big financial undertakings managed entirely and most successfully by women. Miss Mahaffy, Superintendent of the Richmond Nursing Home, spoke most effectively on the same side, and said that nurses, of all people, should realise what the possession of the vote would mean to them when at this very moment there were three Bills affecting nurses before the House, in the framing of two of which the nurses themselves had had no voice whatever. The resolution was then put to the vote and was lost on a division by one vote.

Now who is going to provide the Belfast Nurses' Club with a copy of that wonderful work, "The Subjection of Women," by John Stuart Mill?

### Practical Points.

**The Bed-Easee.**  
An anatomical comfortable and hygienic bed or douche pan.

An experience of the defects of the round and slipper bedpans shows what must be overcome in designing a satisfactory one. They are uncomfortable from the way in which they support the

patient whose sacrum and spine, covered posteriorly with little more than skin, come in contact with the hard rim of the former, or the hard upper surface of the toe-part of the latter. The skin over these bones is rendered delicate and tender

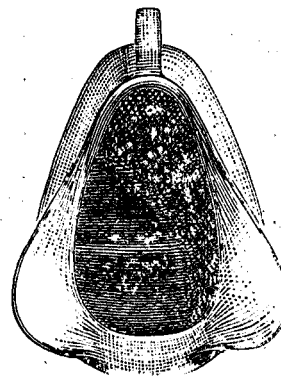


Fig. 1.

through patients lying on their backs in bed during illness, and so the use of these bed-pans is extremely likely to damage it and produce the bedsores which ought to be prevented. The shallowness of the round one, as well as its too wide opening, allows the nates of the patient to almost touch its base so that the act of easing is difficult, and extensive soiling of the skin takes place. The slipper cannot be used in a sitting position, a disadvantage in some illnesses, and its shallowness at the toe-part leads to frequent spilling—which also occurs with the round one through the spout—of its contents, especially after enemas have been given. Their shape makes cleansing difficult. A hygienic point of importance is the impossibility of directly seeing *the whole of the interior* of these bedpans, and a former design of mine also erred in this respect.\* The under surfaces of the incurved rim and of the toe-part are invisible, and so the nurse cannot see whether they are clean. For the same reason, the glazing may here be defective, leaving a rough surface, difficult to cleanse, which in cases of infectious disease such as typhoid fever is not only insanitary, but dangerous as a source of infection. Now for comfort, the upper surface of the rim must slope upwards and outwards on each side, whilst for cleanliness, the lower surface of the rim must slope downwards and outwards from the inner edge so that all

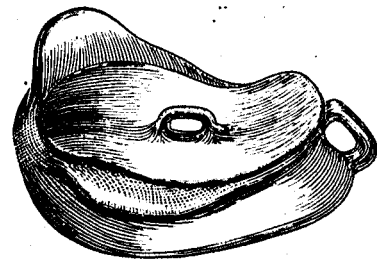


Fig. 2.

\* *British Medical Journal*, Sept. 6th, 1902, p. 710.

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