

cent. of sugar or syrup, and 1 per cent. of flavouring matter, chemicals, and colouring.

Again, adulterated milk and skim condensed milk are, as we all know, largely responsible for the heavy death-rate amongst children. Dairymen's vehicles might, said Mr. Foot, bear as legends the hoary old fables, "Pure milk as the cow gives it," and "Special cows kept for invalids and children," without their possessing any such speciality, and in spite of the fact that they sold a mixture coloured with annatto. True adulterated milk must not be exposed for sale as pure milk, but the difficulties in bringing home the sale of adulterated milk to the offender were many. The inspectors became known in the districts in which they worked, so that it was easy for the milk vendor to circumvent them. Thus, in the case of a vendor, who, recognising an inspector, darted out and said, "There's a little something in that," it was held that this was sufficient notice to put the purchaser on his guard. In another instance the fact that the vendor dashed out and said to the inspector: "This is country milk, and I cannot guarantee it," was sufficient to protect him from penalty, and although it was proved that the same milk had been sold to other customers without warning being given, that fact was held to be irrelevant to the case which was before the court.

Again, some fraudulent dealers send round a hand-can of pure milk from which to serve inspectors or unknown customers, while many shops keep two milk-pans, a small one on the counter, and a large one beneath it, from which customers are served. The reason for this is obvious; the contents of the large one are not legally "exposed for sale," and so the vendor can adulterate them with impunity.

There are, of course, Mr. Foot pointed out, many honourable exceptions, but as the law at present stands the honourable trader competes at a disadvantage with the trickster.

Referring to the question of food preservatives, Mr. Foot stated that the report of the Departmental Committee on preservatives proved that formalin and boric acid were largely used in the preservation of milk, cream, butter, ham, soups, sausages, corned beef, and other articles of diet; in fact at almost every meal we are consuming chemical preservatives, not as drugs, but concealed in our food. He submitted that the butter-factor, the grocer, and the oilman were not proper persons to drug the public.

The Chairman of the meeting, Mr. E. J. Shepard, F.R.M.S., spoke of the public craze for a white loaf, which meant a loaf made from grain crushed between steel rollers, by which means the nutritive portion was eliminated. Flour should be stone ground and only whole meal flour used.

The Secretary of the Association, Mr. Alfred E. Moore, followed, and referred to the admission of a flour merchant that plaster of Paris was incorporated with some self-raising flours. He also pointed out that salicylic acid is much used as a food preservative, a drug which forms the chief basis of corn solvents. He left his hearers to judge if it is able to eat through these callosities on the

feet what its action is likely to be on the mucous membrane of the stomach. We think we have said enough to prove to nurses the intimate relation between the welfare of their patients and the purity of their food supply, and the importance, therefore, for them to inform themselves on this subject.

In conclusion we may remind them that not many years ago the makers of a well-known meat juice were proved to have employed putrid livers in its concoction. When it is remembered that this special article was sold at a high price, and used almost exclusively in the sick room as a specially concentrated and nourishing article of diet for patients so desperately ill as to require feeding in teaspoonful doses, the enormity of such methods is apparent.

JEYES' FLUID.

The proprietors of Jeyes' Fluid have had the honour to receive the only Warrant of Appointment to His Majesty King George V. for disinfectants. Messrs. Jeyes' have received no less than 135 gold medals and other awards, and have also held the Royal Appointments to Her Majesty Queen Victoria and His Majesty King Edward VII.

Foreign Letter.

FROM HOLLAND.

DEAR
EDITOR,
A long
time has
passed since
I sent you
my last let-
ter, and
even to-day
I can only
give you a



survey of the present position of nursing in Holland.

As yet the Board of Health has not given any decision about the petitions *Nosokomos* addressed to the Government in 1907. So matters are still in abeyance, and we can only hope that the decision eventually will be favourable to State registration; meanwhile we are working to arouse public opinion in our favour.

But there are two factors, which prevent our work from being very effective, and even thwart it. These are on the one side the apathy of Matrons and nurses, and their unpardonable indifference to all matters concerning their training and profession; on the other side the opposition to State registration from the side of the medical superintendents of hospitals and asylums. There is no feeling of solidarity amongst our nurses; they are not interested in their profession as a profession. Many of them, especially the better educated ones, are too conservative to grasp the idea of solidarity, and regard membership of an association the aim of which is more social than philanthropic as undignified, as a thing good for working people, but not for gentlewomen. Also there is the view that

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