

## MEDICAL MATTERS.

## MILK AND DISEASE.

Mr. Nathan Straus, the American financier and philanthropist, while passing through London, after attending the Tuberculosis Congress in Berlin, stated to a contemporary that it was the final conclusion of the Congress that practically all cases of tuberculosis can be traced back to impure milk as an origin, and that it was largely influenced in this decision by the Report of the Royal Commission in this country. It will be remembered that the Commission declared that tuberculosis in cows does cause the disease in human beings, and that infection is transmitted in dairy products. The Commission has also endorsed the findings of the American Department of Agriculture that more than one quarter of all children under five years of age, who show symptoms of tuberculosis, owe their condition to milk from diseased cows.

Mr. Straus contends that while scientists have done a great work in finding a cure for tuberculosis, the prevention and removal of the cause would be infinitely more beneficial to humanity. He believes in pasteurisation as the most effective measure of prevention, and that all milk which is not certified or guaranteed as fresh, pure, and clean should be heated to at least 140 degrees Fahrenheit for twenty minutes. This is in essence pasteurisation, and the process is so simple that he considers it would not be difficult to introduce its compulsory practice.

## A LABORATORY FOR EUGENICS.

The study of National Eugenics is one of the utmost importance at the present time, and the public appeal of Lord Rosebery, the Chancellor, and other officials of London University for £15,000 to build the Francis Galton Laboratory for this purpose will be recognized as both timely and appropriate. It will be remembered that the late Sir Francis Galton left the residue of his property to the University of London for the endowment of a Professorship and Laboratory for National Eugenics. The University bases its appeal on the belief that the public realizes the growing importance to the nation at large of the ideas associated with the name of Sir Francis Galton, and that the fittest memorial to his life is the establishment of an institute for the study "of those agencies under social control that may improve or impair the racial faculties of future generations, physically and mentally."

## THE NURSING OF NERVE CASES.

*From a Matron's Point of View.*

The nursing of nerve cases is regarded as so arduous a branch of our professional work that it commands the highest fees.

It is not merely a question of expert practical and theoretical knowledge, but also of great endurance and tact, though general training and a knowledge of massage are both requisites. Since the days of my probation, the nervous system has appeared to me to be as important as the circulatory and lymphatic systems; as real as the organs, bones, muscles or alimentary canal, all of which are treated by the greatest of savants, and nursed by the most skilled nurses.

Take for instance a heart case. The nurse is told by the doctor that the patient is suffering from aortic, mitral, valvular, muscular, or other abnormal condition. A well-trained nurse, not only understands the condition of the patient, but grasps the situation and knows how to cope with it. She knows at a glance that one requires propping up, that another should be placed in the recumbent position, this one requires abundant fresh air, windows wide open, another must also have warm clothing, hot water bottles, and a fire. One patient requires cheerful companionship, another must be kept absolutely quiet; one requires feeding up, the other must have a low restricted diet.

And yet, many abnormalities of the poor brain, with all its branches entering every tissue of the body (just as the branches of the circulatory system, which originates with the heart, extend throughout the body), are often ignored or treated with impatience and contempt.

A clearly pronounced case of insanity is now treated with interest and mercy, though it is barely more than a century since the insane were flogged, chained, and believed to be possessed by the devil.

The day is fast coming when the diseases of the nervous system and their causes will be classified and considered an important factor in the diagnosis of many organic disturbances.

How can we, for instance, expect lungs, heart, or alimentary canal, to be healthy, when the nervous system is disorganised? Is the nervous system not subject to cold, heat, acidity, and other influences? Is it not affected by hereditary and other factors?

Worse still, does it not pay the high price of mental, moral, or physical pain?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)