

Discussing the Enema in the Eighteenth Century, the *British Medical Journal* gives the following amusing information:—

As we know, the enema syringe in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was the symbol of medicine in France. The august body of Louis XIV was washed out by means of it some thousands of times, and it is recorded of a royal duchess that she had the *remède*, as it was politely called, furtively administered to her even in the presence of the Court. It was used by everybody who could afford it, and it was a considerable source of income to the apothecaries. Naturally it did not escape the keen eye of Molière, who introduces it several times. He represents M. de Pourceaugnac being pursued with the instrument by a number of apothecaries, assuring him that it is benign, and in the ballet which concludes the *Malade Imaginaire* the apothecaries carrying the emblem play a conspicuous part. There is a curious record of an action brought in 1746 against a canon of Troyes, François Bourgeois, by what may be called a nurse specialist in the administration of enemas. This lady, who had the very appropriate name of Etiennette Boyeau, brought an action for recovery of moneys due to her for the innumerable enemas she had given the patient. As he would not pay, she put her case into the hands of an advocate named Grosley. His pleading, which is given in French memoirs in all seriousness but which reads like an elaborate jest, set forth that the canon had for some time been "vexed by a heated state of the viscera of that enormous acrimony which causes the generative parts to be extravasated." (Doubtless the writer meant piles.) Having consulted his physician, the canon was ordered the frequent use of "a kind of lenitive commonly known under the name of clyster." Etiennette Boyeau, who was in high repute for her skill in the administration of that remedy, was called in, and she attended on the canon two whole years, officiating at least once, sometimes as often as six times, a day. But, though she served him well and her fee was small, she could get no money out of the canon. "Three hundred times, at the most interesting moments and in the most supplicating position, she begged him to relieve her needs, without his allowing himself to be softened." At length, in 1746, she brought an action against him. In the pleading it is stated that "the Sieur Bourgeois took at least one enema a day and often six, thus, taking the whole together on an average, three enemas a day gives a total of 2,190 enemas, which at 2 sols 6 deniers make up the big figure of 273 livres 15 sols. Etiennette consents to reduce the total number of enemas to 2,000, and to reduce her bill to 150 livres instead of 273 livres 15 sols." The canon resisted, but ultimately paid up.

PRESERVATIVES IN MILK AND CREAM.

The new regulations prohibiting the use of preservatives in milk and regulating their use in cream came into force on Tuesday.

REFLECTIONS

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The Duke of Norfolk (Lord Lieutenant of Sussex) will inaugurate the Brighton and Hove Memorial to King Edward, and has fixed October 12th for the purpose. After unveiling, on the Esplanade at the borough boundary, the beautiful monument entitled "Peace," executed by Mr. Newbury Trent, the Duke will open the new Central Home for the Brighton and Hove Queen's Nurses at Wellington Road, which forms part of the memorial of the two boroughs. Money is greatly needed in support of the Queens' Nurses Home.

The new wing which has been attached to the Wolverhampton and Staffordshire General Hospital as a memorial to the late King Edward VII. is nearing completion, and the official opening has been fixed for Wednesday, November 13th, and the ceremony will be conducted in Masonic form by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Staffordshire, the Right Hon. Earl of Dartmouth, Provincial Grand Master, officiating. A public luncheon will take place in honour of the occasion, and the opportunity will be seized to give publicity to the general reconstruction scheme of the hospital. The two wards composing the new wing are thoroughly modern in every respect, and embody practically every improvement and requisite that surgical and architectural science can suggest. They will be used exclusively for women's surgical and accident cases. They are lofty, airy, and splendidly lighted. The walls are treated with white enamel, with a dado of light green tiles, and the heating will be by hot water radiators and centrally situated fireplaces with down draughts. The floors are constructed of teak blocks, and the doors are made of the same kind of wood. At the end of both wards are balconies approached by swing-doors for the special benefit of patients needing open-air treatment. It should be mentioned that about £2,300 is still required to complete the building and equipment of the wing. The object is a deserving one. It is surprising the amount of work which the hospital does in the treatment of women's cases. Something between 900 and 1,000 patients are dealt with in the course of a year, and in the new wards thirty-six more beds will be available (eighteen in each ward), making a total in the whole institution of about seventy-one for women.

The National Insurance Commissioners have issued a draft of the Regulations relating to medical benefit under the Insurance Act.

The question of remuneration for medical attendance is left to the local health committees, who have the option of arranging payment on any of the four following bases:—

- (1) Capitation only.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)