

### A HEARTLESS FRAUD.

Grace Briggs, a young woman whose home is at Sheffield, was recently sentenced at Grimsby to four months' hard labour for obtaining food and lodging to the value of £6 12s., and of stealing £1, from Mrs. Jane Sanders of Cleethorpes. The convicted woman stated to Mrs. Sanders when she took rooms at her house that she was a Red Cross Nurse sent to Cleethorpes to recuperate, and that payment would be forwarded at the end of the month by St. Bartholomew's Hospital, to which she was attached. At the end of that time she said her leave had been extended for a fortnight, when the account would be paid. The day before the fortnight expired she went out, and never returned.

The evidence of Superintendent Osborne was that Briggs was the daughter of very respectable people but had recently lived an immoral life, and during the last few weeks she had defrauded several people.

Had there been a State Register of Trained Nurses it need not have taken six weeks to detect this fraud.

### A TIMELY STIMULUS TO LOYALTY AND PATRIOTISM.

Messrs. Raphael Tuck & Co., Raphael House, Moorfields, City, have just issued a charming set of six photogravure portraits of our Royal House, executed with all the skill for which the firm is renowned, and which have been graciously approved by Their Majesties. They include the King and Queen, the Prince of Wales, Prince Albert, and Princess Mary, and would be an addition to any Home, School, Club, or Public Institution. The price of 1s. per copy, or 1s. 6d. on "India," seems quite absurd for these pictures, having regard for the beauty of the workmanship. They deserve, and should have, a wide sale.

### VITAFER.

Vitafer is a comparatively new concentrated tonic food, but during the time it has been on the market it has gained for itself the highest reputation, and proved invaluable in cases of physical and nerve weakness, of which unfortunately there are at present so many instances. No hospital should be without it. Further, the fact of its freedom from sugar and purin-producing substances makes it an invaluable standby in cases of diabetes and other diseases where sugar is contra-indicated. It is, moreover, "British throughout." The sole manufacturers are Messrs. Southall Bros. & Barclay, Ltd., of Birmingham.

### BURNT MILK.

It is quite easy to prevent milk and milky foods from burning. First see that the saucepan is quite clean. Then cover the bottom of it with water, boil this for half a minute and while still boiling pour in the milk or food and cook in the usual way; it will not burn unless the saucepan is very worn, or the heat very fierce.

### BOOK OF THE WEEK.

#### "MARIA AGAIN."\*

Those who read "According to Maria" will welcome another book from the pen of its talented authoress, Mrs. John Lane, and "Maria Again" will fulfil all their expectations, and afford them welcome relief from the tension of life at the present moment.

For those unacquainted with Maria let it be explained that she is the wife of a well-to-do grocer—formerly retail, now, Maria is careful to point out, wholesale—with the instinct for climbing, an insatiable love for a title, and for hanging on to the fringe of Society, and for the publicity and glory attained by being photographed for the public press. To attain such ambitions she energises, suffers, and schemes; for their fulfilment no pains seem too great to her common little soul.

"Friends," according to Maria, "were divided into two classes—those who had motors and those who hadn't." And all things being equal, she preferred friends who had, for friends who had motors could only be considered in the light of a blessing, so in future she had decided to have only motor friends." Analysing the effect of the motor on English faces, complexions, and voices, her biographer cried, appalled, "For goodness' sake, Maria, what will the next generation be like?"

"To which Maria replied that, on the whole, she wasn't sure there'd be a next generation. For to motor towards the simple life is expensive, and requires at least one new motor a year. According to Maria the choice lies between motors and children, and so many people prefer motors; for in these days it is impossible, it seems, to afford both.

"Why, it's the new car of Juggernaut," I cried, horrified at this state of things.

"Maria paused in the tying on of her motor veil . . . and said thoughtfully:

"Juggernaut? That must be a new make; I never heard of it before!"

Maria on her correspondence is also original.

"The delightful letters one gets with a crest, and written in such an intimate, chatty kind of way, till one wonders if it's a cousin on father's or mother's side, and just as one's got over being suspicious, if he doesn't turn round and ask for money for a hospital or something or other; and then one finds out one's never heard of him before! It's that kind of underhanded way that just makes one hate charity."

Maria's contribution to the national sacrifice was to wear out-of-date Tango curls.

"You see, I paid two and sixpence a pair for them just before the war, and as I owe it to my country to be economical I've made up my mind to wear them out."

"It isn't the sort of thing," Maria said mournfully, "for which people's pictures are put in the

\* By Mrs. John Lane. John Lane, The Bodley Head, London.

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