

Nurse Walshe.
 Miss Florence Sheppard.
 Miss L. Hern, M.R.B.N.A.
 Miss Frances Webster-Wedderburn.
 Nurse Worthington.
 Miss N. Winter, M.R.B.N.A.
 Miss Mary Hopkins, M.R.B.N.A.
 Miss Marion Beak.
 Miss E. Crosby.
 Miss Lizzie Blackburn, L.O.S.
 Nurse Amy F. Long, M.R.B.N.A.
 "M. B." is disqualified, as answers can only be received on post-cards.

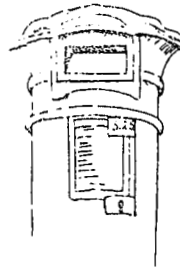
ISINGLASS AND GELATINE.

ISINGLASS is the purest form of gelatine, but while chemically there is little difference between the two, practically the difference between the best and inferior varieties of both articles is most strongly marked. In former times Russian isinglass, which should be the dried sounds or swimming bladders of the sturgeon only, was in general use; but its high price, when of good quality, brought into commerce not only the inferior membranes of that fish, but also bladders and membranes of other fishes—notably those from the East Indies and Brazil—as cheap imitations and substitutes. The uncertain strength of these raw products—which were simply scraped and washed, rolled and cut up—and the difficulty of eliminating their fishy taste and smell, led to the invention of *Swinborne's Patent Refined Isinglass*, which differs from all others in that it is a cooked article, of uniform strength and purity, tasteless, and entirely free from sell. Being perfectly soluble, it dissolves immediately in warm water, and leaves no deposit. It is largely taken in tea, milk or broth, by invalids, and is most nutritious in every form of jelly, creams, and high-class confectionery—given to infants when plain milk disagrees, it renders the milk easily digestible.

No article of commerce requires more careful selection of material or such nice and cleanly preparation to insure a wholesome product, as gelatine. Held at one time in high estimation as a food, it has latterly been considered of little value, because in itself it does not sustain life. Subjected to this test, nearly every useful and desirable delicacy would have to be condemned, and it cannot with justice be applied to gelatine any more than to the many articles we daily consume with appreciation and benefit. Abroad no less an authority than Liebig pronounced against it, but the gelatine he condemned was chiefly of foreign manufacture, and prepared chemically

from bones by the use of acids, sulphur, &c. On the other hand, in England our great chemist, the celebrated Professor Brande, F.R.S., was careful to draw the distinction between good and bad, and deeming these inferior productions unwholesome, and not to be recommended, he confined his testimony to the merits and nutritious qualities of *Swinborne's Calves' Feet Gelatine*, the manufacture of which he inspected in all its details and thoroughly approved of.

Owing to great pressure upon our space, the *Serial Story*, "The Vicar's Daughter," is unavoidably held over until next week.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

(Notes, Queries, &c.)

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

We shall be happy to answer, as far as we can, all questions submitted to us. Communications, &c., not noticed in our present number will receive attention when space permits.

CHARITY CO-OPERATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—The liberal response to Mr. Booth's appeal may probably be taken as a protest against the multiplicity of charities—many of them doing exactly the same work, without any co-operation amongst themselves—and as an advocacy for having one man at the head, with one great scheme, instead of one thousand expensive casual workers at small pieces of charity and with no coherence. There is little or no intercommunication between the charities, and persons go from one to the other getting relief. There is no fixed plan to take hold of the public mind; and no consideration is given to the greatly varied circumstances which fifty years have brought about in the Poor Law legislation, and the establishment of the Asylums' Board and the surgical rooms in each union of the Metropolis. A still more important point is the shocking waste of benevolent funds caused by the divided and exclusive responsibility which now exists. Many instances of this might be given. A notable one is to be found in the Surgical Appliance Societies, of which half-a-dozen supply trusses for a subscriber's ticket of five shillings, all of which ought to be, and can be, provided by the Poor Law, since a person who cannot pay five shillings is practically a pauper. Probably these trusses could be estimated at three instead of five shillings were it not for the fact that six secretaries and six rents are paid when one of each would suffice. There are hundreds of similar charities which are doing unnecessarily the work of the Poor Law, and by relieving the guardians of their duties to a small extent they prevent their taking up the question of relief as a whole. Mr. Booth is making a first attempt to grapple with the whole question of charities by means of one organisation, and to take, at all events, a large,

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