

with respect to this article of infantile attire? How can it depict the multiple forms, the bewildering complications, the utterly incomprehensible arrangements of buttons, strings, tapes, loops, and "tabs" that appear to answer no known purpose? And, crowning aggravation of all, the precious garment never fits, in spite of all these abortive but well meaning attempts to bring that consummation about. The long flannel, as a rule, is beautifully made, and the amount of patient care bestowed upon the needlework of it excites my entire admiration. Sometimes it is made with the finest Saxony flannel, which I object to, and prefer the very finest Welsh, at from two shillings and sixpence to three shillings or more a yard. There is more warmth and comfort in it than the finer sorts. Some of the long flannels are attached to a calico or linen band about half a yard or more long, an arrangement I distinctly object to. My readers may plainly see I am in a grumbling frame of mind. Well, I have not half done grumbling yet. What will the layette people say to me for demolishing so many of their cherished baby-clothes ideas? It was only in quite recent days that I had the good fortune to get emancipated from the tyranny of their routine long flannel, and got hold of an article that appears to me to be all that is required for infant warmth and comfort—the Scotch barrow coat, which I came across when I was attending a Scotch woman, and I will endeavour to describe it to you in my next paper.

(To be continued.)

### PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION.—XXIII.

*Describe for a Hospital containing fifty beds the number of Nursing Officials, Staff, Pupils, or Probationers required; mention their duties, their hours, and the regulations necessary for satisfactory working.*

By MISS MARY MONKHOUSE

(District Nurses' Home, Kilmarnock, N.B.).

IT has been the custom of late years for a sympathetic and sentimental public to talk loudly against overwork and long hours for labouring men and women; and Nurses and Nursing Institutions have not been spared in the general outcry. But although we are told that no one ought to be overworked, we are

Loeflund's Mustard Leaves (prepared specially for Sinapisms) from the finest seed only. The most efficacious and reliable form of mustard-plaster. Clean, quick, portable. Tins of 10, 1s. 6d. Special quotations for larger sizes, containing 50, 100, and 200 leaves each. R. Baelz and Co., 14-20, St. Mary Axe, E.C.

shown no way of avoiding the evil, and we find that the very persons who are most anxious and most competent to make the lives of Nurses happy and easy are those most puzzled as to the best means of doing so.

The poet Gordon, in his "Ride from the Wreck," describes how a young mare gallantly gallops on till she drops dead under her master. And Mr. Browning in his well-known poem, "How they Brought the Good News," also describes the endurance of the horse, Roland, who, overcome with fatigue, is just saved from death by the last bottle of wine in the city being poured down his throat, which the burghers vote as "no less than his due who brought good news from Ghent."

With courage like these horses are many of our Nurses endowed, and it is the duty of those under whom these women work to see that they too are not driven too hard, and caused to die "in harness." While there is work to do they will do it. What the consequences are they must not care; their duty lies plain before them, and that is enough.

But there is another question to consider—the evil of too little work; and it is noteworthy that Nurses who are in good health and truly attached to their work dread this more than having too much to do. "Better wear out than rust out," says the old proverb; and truly the rusting is the more trying process.

In Hospitals, as in all other forms of Nursing, the number and seriousness of the cases vary greatly at different times. Sometimes the Nurses are so busy that they have hardly time to take their meals, while at other times after the morning work is completed they have little else to do. The aim of every Hospital Committee, therefore, must be, in regulating the number of the staff, to avoid both these evils; so that, however heavy the work may be, there are enough workers to fulfil it, and, on the other hand, however light it may be, there is still enough to do to keep all these workers actively occupied.

A Hospital of fifty beds placed in the heart of a manufacturing town, where accidents and serious cases are common, will require a much larger Staff than the same sized Hospital would do placed in a quiet district where people live less crowded together, and where serious cases are rare. In either case it is unlikely that more than forty or forty-five of the beds will be in use at one time, but the Staff must be large enough to attend to the whole fifty at once if need be. The skill and

NOTICE.—Messrs. Baelz and Co. respectfully invite correspondence from the members of the Nursing profession, to whom they will be happy to forward full particulars of Messrs. Loeflund and Co.'s products, and quote special terms in such cases as may be found conducive to a thorough and practical test of these 'excellent preparations.' 14-20, St. Mary Axe, E.C.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)