

æsthetic gifts. The subject of the lecturer's discourse was, "How to do without Cosmetics." She declared that seventy-five per cent. of woman-kind used this kind of rubbish, a statement which, if applied to English ladies, is a characteristic exaggeration. Mrs. Ruppert does not use cosmetics herself; she polishes her face with a piece of chamois leather. In this country the same material is used for polishing up brass, and care would presumably have to be taken by ladies against using the same leather for the two purposes. The lecturer also discovered that women are more wrinkled than men because they laugh more; hence a recommendation to study facial expression, to laugh with the eyes and lips while keeping the face calm. Unfortunately, this compressed internal mirth produces apoplexy—vide Tony Weller. Besides, it might be difficult without considerable practice to laugh with the eyes and wink at the same time, unless the operator takes the words of the song literally, and laughs with one while she winks the other. The sum and substance of Mrs. Ruppert's lecture was that the rouge-pot is vanity, and powder-puff vexation of spirit, and that there is nothing like leather. And yet it seems almost impossible that a woman should be really beautiful, unless she is perfectly natural, laugh and skin included.

A great Russian official, who shall be name-

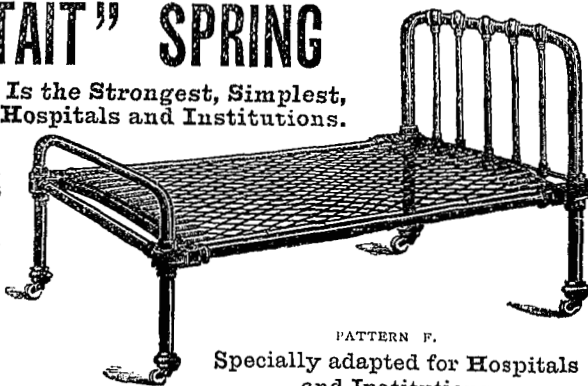
less, has expressed an opinion that "the present famine is not a bolt from the blue, a single phenomenon that has come suddenly, and will as suddenly depart. It is the natural consequence of thirty years' bad management, and will become chronic. We may buy corn for the peasants and feed them, but how are we to give them back their horses and cattle? They have already killed half of them. The state of the peasantry is extremely unsatisfactory. Risings may be expected. The peasants believe it to be the Czar's duty to feed them. I have heard them talk as follows: 'The Czar must feed us, and if he does not we must choose another.' The little influence and energy which our society possesses, the Government endeavours to take from it. There are only two forces which keep the State together—the Church and the Army—and the present régime has made for itself enemies in both, not small insignificant enemies, but powerful and influential ones. I think it is very improbable that the soldiers and their comrades, if called from the Polish frontier to shoot down their starving fathers and brothers, would be likely to obey their orders. But if the Polish frontier should be denuded of troops, and the country be generally disturbed, I cannot conceive that Austria and Germany would look on quietly. The inhabitants of the Baltic provinces, once our

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