

every one. In answer to a correspondent the remarkable piece of advice is "To pour *methylated spirits* (sic) into your shoes when your feet are very bad gives immediate relief." Apart from the special influence which such a remedy might have upon an indefinite malady called "very bad feet," most persons, we suppose, would be rather puzzled to know how they were going to carry out the directions given. What should be done is, first get your methylated *spirits*—be sure that you get *spirits*; then wait until you are afflicted with the malady "very bad feet," a nomenclature which we would suggest that the Royal College of Physicians should include in their forthcoming revised list of diseases; then, with your "very bad feet" in your shoes, attempt the problem of pouring the *spirits* into the shoes, according to the directions, and pause for developments. If you cannot succeed in all this, write to the editor of the *Hospital* for further instructions—or open a correspondence in his journal upon the subject of the "pathology of a layman's knowledge of medicine." It has always been a source of amusement to me to see the *Hospital* posing as a medical journal. A London evening journal politely called it the other day a "semi-medical newspaper." But in my opinion the Stock Exchange official, who is not a medical man, is just as much qualified to edit a medical journal, apropos of the *Hospital*, as a tinker is to edit any legal newspaper. I trust, Mr. Editor, you will forgive my outspokenness.—I am, sir, yours, &c.,

A HATER OF HUMBUG.

Clapham, S. W.

I AM indebted to Mrs. MESSENGER, the well-known Resident Midwife at the York Road Lying-in Hospital, for a copy of the following valuable Rules for the use of Antiseptics in the practice of Outdoor Maternities, which has just been issued by the Committee of the Hospital:—

(1) Every Midwife should possess a bag, which she should take with her whenever she is summoned to a woman in labour.

(2) The bag should contain, besides other necessaries, the following: (a) A box containing twelve antiseptic powders, each powder consisting of ten grains of corrosive sublimate (perchloride of mercury) and one grain of cochineal. The box should be labelled, "The corrosive sublimate powders.—Poison." (b) An ounce bottle (with wide mouth) containing crystals of permanganate of potassium. (c) A bottle containing two fluid ounces of glycerine, in which one grain of corrosive sublimate has been dissolved. The bottle should be labelled, "The corrosive sublimate glycerine.—Poison." (d) A douche-tin, capable of holding two quarts, and fitted with a long india-rubber tube, stop-cock and vaginal nozzle. (e) A nail brush and a piece of soap. (f) A bath thermometer.

(3) Before making a vaginal examination the Midwife should prepare an antiseptic solution in the following way: One of the corrosive sublimate powders should be placed in a clean basin, and one pint of hot water should be poured

upon it and stirred with the finger until completely dissolved. This solution will be of the strength of one part in one thousand.

(4) The Midwife's nails should be kept short.

(5) Before making the examination, or touching the genital organs, the Midwife should wash her hands and wrists with soap and hot water, cleaning her nails with a nail brush; she should next rinse them free from soap; then she should hold her hands for a full minute in the antiseptic solution already prepared. The hands should not be wiped before making the examination, but the fingers should be anointed with the "corrosive sublimate glycerine." *Note*.—No substitute for the "corrosive sublimate glycerine," such as lard or vaseline, should be used for anointing the fingers.

(6) Having made the examination, she should again wash her hands in soap and water.

(7) All sponges should be plunged in the antiseptic solution, and kept in it for a full minute before being used.

(8) After labour, the external parts should be washed with the antiseptic solution.

(9) Catheters, before being used, should be plunged in the antiseptic solution for a full minute and then anointed with the "corrosive sublimate glycerine."

(10) If the discharge become offensive, and a vaginal douche be required, the douche should be prepared by dissolving one teaspoonful of the crystals of permanganate of potassium in two quarts of hot water, of a temperature of 110 deg. Fahr. The solution should be of the colour of claret.

(11) To prevent ophthalmia, or sore eyes, in the child, the Midwife should wipe its eyelids with a clean napkin as soon as the head is born. This should be done, if possible, before the eyes have been opened. When washing the child the Midwife should separate the lids and squeeze over the eyes a clean white rag or piece of cotton wool that has been soaked in the antiseptic solution.

(12) If the Midwife has been brought into contact with a case of puerperal fever, or other illness supposed to be infectious, she should immediately report the fact to the Managing Committee of the Charity. She should not proceed to any case of labour, or visit any of her patients, until she has the Committee's permission to do so.

S. G.

LADIES and GENTLEMEN REQUIRED as COLLECTORS for a SPECIAL LONDON HOSPITAL. Liberal terms.—Apply Medical Superintendent, any morning at ten o'clock, 67, Welbeck Street, Cavendish Square, W.; or by letter to JOHN SCOTT, Hon Sec.

For "DAINTY DISHES FOR CHILDREN AND INVALIDS" use "E. F. Langdale's" Prize Medal Pure Flavouring Essences. "They are Household Words."—*Vide* Charles Dickens. Should be in use in every Home. Delicious Essences of Lemon, Almonds, Vanilla, &c., &c., for Soups, Jellies, &c. Descriptive Pamphlet and Recipes sent free on receipt of Postcard. Where Langdale's Essences cannot be obtained, please write to E. F. LANGDALE'S Essence Distillery, 72 and 73, Hatton Garden, London E.C. (Est. on Old Holborn Hill, 1777.)

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)