

sought for, by the Association. We must frankly confess that we are surprised at this, but can well believe that its managers know their own business best, and that they have some exceedingly good reason for their studious moderation. On the one hand, therefore, we have shown the extraordinary difficulties under which any opposition will labour, and on the other, that these difficulties will be enormously enhanced by the striking fact that there is practically nothing in the Charter which can be opposed.

But it is plain that the Association recognises the fact that it is the greatest mistake to underestimate one's foes. And, as absolutely independent supporters of the Association, we will do all we can to strengthen its hands. We enclose, in this issue, a form of Petition to the Privy Council, and ask our readers to obtain signatures to it amongst their friends, patients, and neighbours. Further copies can be obtained by sending to us a stamped and addressed envelope. All Petitions should be returned to us not later than April 10, with the name and address of the sender, in every case. Every Nurse, we believe, whether a member of the R.B.N.A. or not, will be glad to take this opportunity of helping forward the great work in which the Association is engaged.

Obstetric Nursing.

— BY OBSTETRICA, M.R.B.N.A. —

PART II.—INFANTILE.

CHAPTER VI.—GENERAL DUTIES.

(Continued from page 213.)

At their completion, this Course of Lectures will be published as one of the Series of "Nursing Record Text Books and Manuals."

IN one of the early papers on the infantile division of my subject, I criticised the clothing of the newly-born, and now again at this latter part of our term of duty the subject becomes one of interest; and there are three garments, we may almost call special to this period we will pass under review—the robe, the hood, and the cloak. The first is dear to every mother in all classes of the community, rather from its *ornamental* than commendable qualities. It differs from the gown, insomuch as it is low in the neck, short in the sleeve, slightly longer, and altogether more handsome; like the cot and the cap, it marks social distinction; and amongst the rich and the great is often of great value from the beauty and rarity of the lace (that entrancing article of feminine desire) that so lavishly adorns

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it. In order to bring this æsthetic garment into harmony with the eternal fitness of things, two conditions are indispensable, a dear *fat* baby, and a sub-tropical temperature. The former will give us but little trouble to find; but in our "sea-girt isle" the latter, for ten months in the year, can only be obtained by artificial means and at lavish cost. In order to improve the appearance of the robe, it is made smart by shoulder knots of white or coloured satin ribbon. Viewed from an æsthetic point of view, as it will be in "our" department at the World's Fair next year, placed under a handsome glass case, and adorning an incomparable wax-work baby, it will evoke ecstasies of admiration from all beholders, and none more than the writer, who will reverently regard it as the "right thing in the right place."

And here I may remark, *en passant*, that I have consented to act as *Honorary* Member of the "Mothers' Committee," and amongst innumerable other articles we feel sure the three following will possess an unusual and *historic* interest: The Robe in which Edward of Carnarvon, first Prince of Wales, was presented by his warlike sire to the Barons (we are not *obliged* to tell them at Chicago that he never had one)*; *Cot* of the King-Maker, of *modern* and artistic design, in wrought-iron work (we islanders know that the turbulent Earl was "*cradled* in arms"); *Cap* of exquisite lace, said to have been worn by H.R.H. the infant Princess Victoria Alexandrina of Kent, *temp.* 1819, lent by "Obstetrica." We anticipate that this unique and interesting exhibit will attract countless and admiring throngs of *maters* and maidens ("Lords of Creation," extra charge, *one guinea*, proceeds to be handed over to our "Charter" Fund). I really must not stay to tell you any more now, or Mr. Editor will look up from his writing, and denouncing me as "frivolous," consign this deeply-interesting paper to *us* (Obstetric Nurses), to the oblivion of his W.P.B.

To return to my subject (the infant's robe). Having dwelt upon its romantic side, we shall find now that we return to every-day life and duty, that much of the glamour that surrounds this ancestral garment will be subject to a rude dispelling; for out of that spirit of imitation that is said to be the sincerest form of flattery, it has been travestied by the imitators into a veritable garb of woe for hapless infancy—but little better than a shroud!

* Our Transatlantic cousins make *large* demands upon *our* credulity, from sea-serpents to wooden nutmegs, and we may fairly expect a little "reciprocity" on this International occasion.

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