

inefficiency and incompetence, and who was afterwards granted a Certificate as a good Nurse. It is bad enough that the London Hospital should thus depreciate the Nursing profession by placing good, bad, and indifferent Nurses on one dead level of certificated efficiency. That a great charitable Institution should thus palm off upon the sick as trustworthy, women who have proved in its own service to be unable to perform satisfactorily the responsible duties of a Nurse, exhibits such callous indifference to the first principles of honour, justice, and right, that no words of indignant remonstrance and reprobation can be considered too strong for such proceedings.

"SAINTS OR SCUM."

THE work of Nursing seems to be in curious hands, in France. A Parisian Town Councillor has recently made a statement in public that the Nurses and even the ward attendants in the Hospitals of Paris are so badly paid, fed, housed, and treated that they now comprise only saintly heroines or the scum of the female population who can get no other employment. There is no doubt that Nursing is in a backward state in France, and, moreover, that it is in a state of transition just at present from the old order to the new. The Sisters of Charity have in many Institutions been displaced, and the order of lay trained Nurses has not yet arisen in sufficient numbers to take their places. It is much to be feared that the description of M. LAURENT has considerable truth in it. We would suggest that one of our Parisian readers should take up this matter for the good of humanity, as well as for the elevation of Nursing, and that she should approach Madame CARNOT with the object of removing the stigma from French womanhood that they leave so much of the care of the sick and the suffering to the refuse of the people.

DEFRAUDING THE SICK.

A CORRESPONDENT asks us a question, in another column, this week which deserves the earnest attention of the public. She went to a Hospital to learn Nursing; the authorities admitted her on the distinct agreement that she should work for them, for a meagre salary, for a term of years, on condition that during the whole of that period she should be taught the art and practice of Nursing in their wards. Yet, at the end of six months the Committee of this Institution permit the Matron to violate this contract and their promises to this pupil, and to send her out to make money for the Hospital—pretending to the public that she is a thoroughly trained Nurse, and depriving the Nurse of her education in the wards. The system is simply scandalous, and both the Nurse and the public are helpless. If the former complains she would be summarily discharged and professionally ruined; the latter have no means of knowing how they are being victimised. So long as the London Hospital Committee are permitted to ignore the Lords' Committee's recommendations and send out their pupils as thoroughly trained Nurses, so long will smaller Hospitals and private Institutions send out women of no character and less knowledge, in the same capacity.

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Obstetric Nursing.

— BY OBSTETRICA, M.R.B.N.A. —

PART II.—INFANTILE.

CHAPTER VIII.—INFANTILE AILMENTS.

(Continued from page 777.)

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

DANDRIF is another skin affection of early infancy, and as it attacks the scalp, and generally selects for its site the forepart of the head, over the region of the anterior fontanelle, it becomes unpleasantly conspicuous, and as, like "impetigo," it is popularly supposed to convey an imputation of want of cleanliness, it occasions much distress to the maternal mind, although, as a rule, it is not a matter of serious consequence to the infant.

What is dandriff? Medical writers describe it as a furfuraceous condition of the skin of the head, a species of Pityriasis. But in *pity* to my Nursing readers we will content ourselves with homely terms and treat this infantile trouble as scurf, showing itself in small, irregular brown patches of small thin scales, that never collect into crusts, and are unattended by inflammation.

Pityriasis is also a teething affection of infancy, and you may see the whole scalp covered with rough, "branny" looking scales—and, upon the principle, I presume, of *similia similibus curantur*, bran washes are held in popular esteem as a remedy for the disease. The form of the disease we are about to consider is of a much milder character, showing itself in brown patches of irregular size on various parts of the head, affecting infants from four weeks old and upwards.

Now how shall we clean these patches off? Ordinary soap and water are not efficacious here, and for that reason other things are substituted for them by Mothers and Nurses, including amongst others *carbolic* soap, bran washes, and burnt butter.

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