

trained Nurse, but adds to her repertoire by understanding "lady's maiding" and house-keeping. If the "lady of the house" needs it, she can give massage—and she can produce her certificate in the art. Should any of the household require electricity, this Jill of all trades can administer galvanic shocks on approved principles.

Perhaps there will be some young ladies of a marriageable age but with muddy complexions! Here again "the household treasure" will prove her skill; "facial massage" is an art in which she excels and she is willing to put this unusual talent at the disposal of "her young ladies." Truly, competition in domestic service must be becoming very keen when it is necessary for butlers to become "barbers," and for housekeepers to qualify in electricity and facial massage!

THE Salvation Army, among its many beneficent schemes for the benefit of humanity, has a Maternity Society, and any poor woman requiring a midwife and attendance after confinement can have both by applying at 46, Tudor Road, Mare Street, Hackney. A small charge is made, the payments for which are taken weekly before the confinement.

M. DAUDET has been giving his views about everything we do in England. He has summed up our marriage questions, our industrial conditions heredity, and, so forth. He has gone on to express his views on the teaching of physiology. He affirms that boys do not need to learn physiology, because they learn "everything from the schools, the streets and the newspapers."

"... As to young girls—no. I would teach them none of the truths of physiology. I can only see disadvantages in such a proceeding. Those truths are ugly, disillusioning, sure to shock, to frighten: to disgust the mind, the nature of a girl."

Which goes to show that Daudet's mind is as unwholesome as his books. It would be impossible to find a body of women who are purer in mind and thought than Hospital Nurses, who are constantly being brought into relation with human, physical facts, which, if learnt in a wholesome manner, increase rather than diminish the healthy tone of a mind.

**NURSES' WATCHES ALTERED** to show SECONDS, from 8s. 6d. This includes new seconds' dial and seconds' hand, and the necessary mechanical alterations. Nurses' Silver Keyless Watches with seconds' hand, 4s. 10s. **SAMUEL STANLEY, 48, MORTIMER STREET, W.** (Midway between Middlesex Hospital and Cavendish Square.

## Medical Matters.

### THE LOCAL VETO BILL.



THE active correspondence which is taking place in the *Times* concerning the Local Veto Bill has opened up again the frequently discussed question as to the effects of alcoholism both upon the parents and the offspring. The question of alcoholism as a factor in insanity has been recently investigated most carefully in the United States. And the conclusion which has been arrived at is largely corroborated by the records of asylums in Germany and other countries. It is roughly computed that nine per cent. of all cases of hereditary insanity are directly due to drunken parents, and that at least ten per cent. of the cases of acquired insanity are directly caused by the excessive use of alcohol. With such facts as these, which, if anything are understated, it is impossible to speak too strongly concerning the disastrous effects of chronic alcoholism upon the human race. Medical men, above all other sections of the community, recognise the evils of the system, and are probably the most active and successful temperance reformers—a fact, by-the-by, which is frequently overlooked amongst the lay advocates of temperance.

### STERILISING CATGUT.

MANY surgeons entertain serious suspicions concerning the cleanliness of catgut, and require that before using it for sutures or ligatures it should be carefully sterilised. It is a well-known fact that suppuration often takes place in the track of a catgut suture, which nowadays is held to be proof positive of the presence of bacilli on the material. An interesting investigation, therefore, has recently been carried out in Germany, and it has been found that upon no less than one quarter of a large number of specimens of catgut, virulent bacilli were found to exist; and the greatest number of germs were discovered on those specimens which had been sterilised by a dry process. One well-known surgeon has declared that, in his operations for goitre, he only obtained primary union of the wound in 35 per cent. of his cases when he used sterilised catgut, but in nearly 86 per cent. when he employed sterilised silk. He

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