

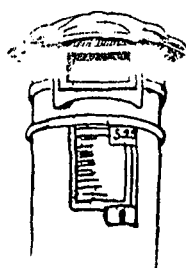
Inventions, Preparations, &c.

WALPOLE'S LINENS.

The economical Matron, like the prudent housewife, usually takes advantage of the Summer Sales to replenish her store of linens, and, to those who are about to adopt this course this year, we would advise a visit to Belfast House, 89, New Bond Street, where the Annual Sale of Messrs. Walpole is in progress. This firm, which is well known as manufacturing the best class of Irish linen goods, is now selling excellent materials at extremely cheap rates, and any of our readers desirous of real bargains in such goods would do well to pay a speedy visit to this establishment.

A SANITARY FILTER.

Now-a-days when water is known to be the chief medium of communication of disease, a reliable filter has become an essential in every household. Unfortunately, although this truth is recognised, most people find much difficulty in choosing one from the multitude of such inventions, and so while many purchase a cheap and nasty appliance, others refrain from buying a filter at all, from sheer ignorance of the best and most useful form. Now although the principles of a proper filtering medium are quite well understood, there is one fact which has hitherto been almost universally overlooked, which is that not only in keeping the filter clean, but even in keeping the filter filled, one is at the mercy of one's servants. The result is that more often than not the instrument is left empty, and the water bottle is filled direct from the main tap. We have, therefore, been much pleased with a novel and most useful form of filter, which has been brought out by the Sanitary Engineering and Ventilation Company, of 65, Victoria Street, Westminster. This is not only absolutely clean, being made of non-absorbent material in the shape of well-glazed white China, but it is Self-Filling, being fitted with a half-inch pipe at the top which can be connected directly either with a service pipe or a cistern. In the upper chamber is an Automatic Supply Valve, which permits the water to enter this as the filtered water is drawn off from the bottom. The filtering medium consists of a Carbon Block with many layers of Granular Carbon above it. The whole of this can be easily removed and replaced at a small cost. For various reasons, therefore, we can cordially commend this filter, and as it is especially suited for use in Hospitals or similar Institutions, we commend its advantages to the notice of those of our readers who may be about to purchase such an apparatus.



Letters to the Editor.

(Notes, Queries, &c.)

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

DO NURSES SMOKE CIGARETTES?

To the Editor of "the Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I cannot think how it is possible for your correspondents to attempt to palliate or excuse the most reprehensible conduct of the Nurse seen by "Materfamilias" on the river, smoking cigarettes in her uniform, in company with noisy young men; such behaviour, I feel sure, would arouse strong feelings of indignation on the part of all refined women, whether they were Nurses or not. The sluts one sees about the streets in Nurses' uniform, brings the whole profession into contempt. Can no one suggest a remedy?

"DECENCY AND ORDER."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I was grieved to read in your high-toned journal, letters actually joking concerning the letter of "Materfamilias." It is not surprising that a good mother resents for her daughter the contamination of coarse and vulgar companions. A woman who has so little sense of the responsibility of her noble calling—as to publicly smoke in her uniform—deserves nothing but the severest condemnation. Many of the younger generation of so-called trained Nurses are a disgrace not only to their profession, but their sex, their *unkept* appearance being an outward proof of the disordered mind. Poor old much-maligned "Sairey" would indeed have her revenge, could she walk the West End to-day.—Yours,

"ON THE SHELF."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Your correspondent, "Materfamilias," asks in your issue of June 30th, "How far the new woman is going to ape the habits and vices of the old man?" The question is apropos of smoking. May I ask if it has been definitely decided that smoking is a vice? if so, upon what authority? I know, as a fact, a great many Nurses smoke, some because they like it, and some for scientific reasons, and shocking as the habit may seem to many people, they nevertheless remain good Nurses, and gentle, refined women. A Nurse is no longer a person who attends to the sick "because she is unfit for anything else," but a woman who has spent at least three years of her life in steady, intelligent preparation for her profession, and is, therefore, able to bring a mind as well as a body to assist in carrying out the treatment of the doctor in spirit as well as letter. This means a wear and tear of brain power, such as was unknown in the days of Sairey Gamp. I know many Nurses will agree with me when I say, after hours of anxious watching and ceaseless attention at the bedside of a critical case, the Nurse often retires for a short rest, with her brain in so excited and irritable a state, that sleep, though longed for, is out of the question. Then, oh! the comfort, the soothing delight of one little innocent cigarette! Again, it is a well-known fact that tobacco possesses great disinfecting powers. Has "Materfamilias" ever considered the risk a Nurse runs when shut up for hours with a case of scarlet fever, typhus, or small-pox. I believe many Nurses have lost their lives through the senseless prejudice against women smoking, as

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