

very effectual and easily applied means for this purpose; and it is to be welcomed as helping to make wholly indefensible the too common practice of builders and architects in overlooking the essential principle of safe drainage which this trap is designed to secure.—*The Lancet*.



USE OF STIMULANTS BY WOMEN.

Dr. Edmunds, in writing to the *Health Reformer* on the use of stimulants by women, says:—

A very large majority of the ladies of my own acquaintance on the other side, who are a fair sample perhaps of the ladies living in London society, have acquired the habit of using wine, table-beer, stout and frequently whiskey and brandy, to a large extent, I think, owing to the mistakes on the part of my own profession in the advice which they have given. The result is that the babies of the present generation are never sober from the earliest period of their existence until they have been weaned. This is a shocking statement for me to make, but I should not be doing my duty here, unless I were to make it as broadly and strongly as that. It is a simple fact. The mother's blood, practically, is entirely in common with that of the child. You know perfectly that, if a mother takes even an ordinary dose of such medicine as castor-oil, it will very often affect the baby more than it affects the mother; that one has to be exceedingly careful in prescribing for mothers simply on that ground. Now, what does that simple fact with which all you mothers are familiar show? Why, it shows this that the soothed condition of the body after the mother has taken half a pint of beer is really the first stage of drunkenness in that child. When I hear a mother telling me that whenever she takes a little whiskey and water or brandy and water because the child is fractious, she finds that her milk agrees with it better, I am obliged to ask her if she knows what she is doing; if she knows that she is simply making herself the medium for distilling into her babe's system almost the whole of that spirit which she takes into her own; and whether she is aware that that soothed condition of the child is really the