

BABY BALANCES.

It has become the fashion in France (periodically) to weigh babies. In an official report to the Academy of Science on the Universal Exhibition of Vienna, M. Lovaseur specially calls attention to the cradle of Dr. Goussin, which is so arranged as to indicate the weight of the body. The chief director of the Paris Hospitals, M. Husson, gave details of other 'balance cradles' used in the hospitals of Paris, with the view of indicating the successive change in the weight of the baby. This instrument was very convenient, and furnished important indications to the 'administrative surveillances.' Every two or three weeks the weight of the nurse-child furnished indications for its treatment which, he considered, were not to be disdained. Baby balances and administrative surveillance go, perhaps, very well together; but there is something irresistibly and sadly comic in the notion of an 'administrative officer' surveying the indications furnished by the register of the results of the baby balance, and every two or three weeks thereupon (after a due amount of endorsing, docketing, and official mounting) ordering thereupon a change of treatment for the nurslings. We have an invincible belief that a mother's eye is worth all the weighing cradles ever invented. Besides, it seems baby must be stripped; which, in cold weather, M. Husson gravely informed the Academy, is 'not without inconveniences.'

MEDICAL ENVY.

What is the cause of the bitterness of one physician against another? Why does he blame him in every thing, and on every occasion? The truth is, he has been occupied with the same subject and has been less successful. Do you not see the caterpillar abusing the work of the silkworm? and yet the caterpillar can spin also. Oh, my friends, guard against medical envy: it is a case of cancerous pathology, which eats its way deeper and deeper, until the whole system is contaminated.—*Gazette Medicale.*

THE CZARINA'S PHYSICIANS.

In a very interesting article in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, on the Czarinas of Moscow, at the date of the Renaissance, there is recounted a curious trait of medical manners. Physicians were treated then with the most singular precautions. They were only introduced, at the last extremity, into the chamber of the czarina or czarevna, after the curtains had been closed. They were not permitted to feel the pulse of the patient till after the wrist had been covered with light muslin, to preserve the epidermis from all profane contact. The history of physicians in Old Russia was a curious one. It was thought that the disciples of Hippocrates could do what they wished; if they did not cure, it was set down to pure malice and evil doing. Under Ivan the Great, a Venetian was executed publicly, because a czarevitch died in spite of his care. A German who had allowed a Tartar prince to die, was treated as a murderer, and handed over to the relatives of the deceased, who cut his throat by way of reprisal.

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TEACHING STAFF.

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