

arises from an uncomfortable sense of disorder than anything else.

Cannot this be avoided?

Permit a few homely hints.

First, always air the sitting-room while the family are at breakfast. Then immediately after, put it in perfect order. This will be but the work of a few minutes, with carpet-sweeper and dust-brush, if the rule of the household be that all the little things used by the family during the day must be put away before retiring at night, so that no time is wasted each morning in "picking up." Little matters of fresh flowers, etc., can be left till a more convenient time, if the work of the morning be pressing; but attend carefully to the temperature of the room. If the weather be cool, start up the fire; if very warm, darken the windows, leaving one open upon the shady side.

Now, having prepared a comfortable, tidy room for callers, let no one undo your work. If the weather be not suitable for the children to play in the yard, give them piazza, or dining-room, or any convenient place where they can scatter playthings or cut papers to their hearts' content; but insist that the one room in readiness for callers be undisturbed.

In the next place let me suggest that one or all of the children be carefully trained to answer the door-bell, and seat callers in the sitting-room. Even quite young children can do this politely and nicely if a little attention be given to it. Let mamma play caller some day. All the little folks will enjoy the sport and learn the lesson at the same time.

Lastly, be sure before leaving your room each morning, that your dress, although never too nice for housework, is scrupulously neat and arranged with some eye to beauty. Now have a good supply of big work-aprons to protect yourself while at work, and always keep a fresh white apron hanging in the kitchen, with a mirror, brush and comb, extra hairpins, and whisk-brush conveniently near for an emergency.

With this arrangement, if a morning caller be announced cannot you see it will be but the work of a moment to make yourself presentable? And you need fear no one, from your next-door neighbor, who merely runs in to ask for a recipe for pudding, or a pattern of Johnnie's pants, to your beloved pastor who calls to consult you upon church charities.

## THE PRINCESS OF WALES' RECEPTION OF NURSES.

By invitation of the Prince and Princess of Wales, 700 nurses were received at Marlborough House on the 4th inst., to be presented with certificates of membership upon joining the National Pension Fund. The fund was instituted by Mr. Henry C. Burdett, for the purpose of granting pensions and sick pay to nurses both at home and abroad. By means of the munificent donation of £10,000 from the late Mr. Junius Morgan, and gifts from Lord Rothschild, Mr. H. Hucks Gibbs, and Mr. E. A. Hambro, a comfortable "nest egg" has been formed, and with the addition of the £2200 brought by the nurses themselves on Friday, the fund is placed in a position of complete financial stability. The guests, in their various professional costumes, were ranged in companies under the trees in the gardens behind Marlborough House. At one o'clock the Princess of Wales in a dark blue flowered satin gown, with a white straw bonnet adorned with a damask rose, took up her position on the steps leading on to the lawn, together with the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, and

the Princesses Victoria and Maud, who wore respectively costumes of eau de nil and crevette striped silks with small black hats. They were accompanied by Lady Roseberry, Lord and Lady Rothschild, and Lady Strafford, Sir Dighton Probyn, and Col. Stanley Clarke, and other guests. The certificates, each of which bears upon it the signature of Her Royal Highness, had been cleverly designed by Miss Lillian C. Smytho, and was presented to the recipients "in testimony of her being one of the first thousand who joined this fund, and so became of the founders who secured £25,000 as the nucleus of a permanent trust fund for the benefit of the nurses of the British Empire." The Prince of Wales, in the course of an interesting speech, quoted several instances of nurses who had already benefited by the fund. His Royal Highness added, "No one can do without a nurse sooner or later, and all must hope that the council will be justified by the result in their belief that to-day's proceedings will cause many hospitals and nurses to join the Pension Fund, and that a great many people will be moved to inquire into it."

Mr. W. H. Burns, son-in-law of the late Mr. J. S. Morgan, moved a vote of thanks to the Prince and Princess. After the ceremony the Princess of Wales walked round the garden and conversed with some of the nurses, who were subsequently provided with refreshments. Her Royal Highness was presented during the afternoon with a bouquet sent by the nurses of Wales.—*The Queen*.

## DISCOLORATION OF THE SKIN.

Between the cuticle—the epidermis, that is, or scarf-skin—and the true skin is a layer of cells which secrete from the blood a dark coloring matter. The black races have this feature most fully developed, but even the lightest are not wholly destitute of it.

Its complete absence characterizes the albino, giving us occasionally a chalk-white negro, the hair, of course, participating in the defect. As this pigment is also wanting in the albino's choroid coat of the eye—normally a dark background for the retina, and essential to clear vision—he is nearly blind except at night.

There is often a local absence of pigment, causing white patches on the limbs and different parts of the body. Such a patch on the head may give rise to a solitary white lock amid a full head of dark hair.

Some parts of the skin are naturally darker than the rest, and the darker color may extend far beyond the usual limit and still be purely physiological; but dark-colored spots often appear on the body as a result of some diseased condition or of exciting causes.

The simplest and commonest of such spots are known as freckles. Their remote cause is a peculiarly sensitive skin; their direct cause is the light and heat of the sun. The pigment, which in others is uniformly distributed, seems to gather into small rounded spots.

Freckles are of little account in children, who had better be left free to run and play in the sunshine; but older persons, besides guarding against unnecessary exposure, may need to increase the tone and nutrition of the skin, which can be done by washing it once or twice a day in tar soap and cold water, and afterward applying a lotion of borax and rose-water.

Here and there a person is troubled with large, irregular patches, most frequent on the face and back of the hands. They are caused by a morbid disintegration of the red blood-corpuscles, the debris being deposited in the scarf-skin as pigment.

This disintegration is caused by some form of debility,