

devoted her means, time, energy, and abilities. Shortly afterwards, in fact almost before the work at Harley Street had been completed, troubles arose in the Crimea, our military hospitals there being in a wretchedly neglected condition. Even common and ordinary system and administration were wanting, arousing in the people of England a very considerable outburst of public feeling; and at last, after many suggestions had been made, the late Lord Herbert, the then Secretary for War, appealed to Miss Nightingale, asking her if she would take in hand the arduous task of reforming the conduct of the military hospital administration. Strange to say, by a peculiarly interesting coincidence, Lord Herbert's letter crossed with one of Miss Nightingale's, in which she had placed her services at his disposal. It is hardly necessary to state the result of her activity in this most important sphere of work. Dr. W. H. Russell and other prominent war correspondents have alluded to her indefatigable services there in terms ever to be remembered, and our soldiers will, we are convinced, ever perpetuate her memory, as having conferred upon them in their sick and wounded condition countless blessings.

The public, in order to bear testimony to her excellent work, secured subscriptions amounting to upwards of £50,000 for the purpose of presenting her with a testimonial. This testimonial Miss Nightingale requested should be given towards the formation of institutions for the training of nurses; and in the Nightingale Home of St. Thomas' Hospital her views and ideas are to this day practically carried out. This work, though in itself sufficient to entitle any woman to one of the most prominent of popular positions, is only a tithe of the labour which Miss Nightingale has done.

Never what might be called physically robust, she has always been occupied in some work which should be to the advantage of her fellow-sufferers. She has written "Notes on Hospitals," in 1859; "Notes on Nursing," in 1860; and "Observations on the Sanitary State of the Army in India," in 1863. The War Office has required her services in the compilation of confidential reports on the working of the Army Medical Department in the Crimea; and the volunteer movement has received very considerable attention from her. All kinds of sanitary measures and nursing arrangements at home and abroad, the social, educational and physical benefit of those in India and for the army generally at home and abroad, have been fully considered and advocated by her; and in the Civil war in America, and during the Franco-Prussian war, she was many times appealed to on matters concerning the health of the respective armies, and for the assistance of the sufferers in the field.

THE Mayor of Newcastle recently accompanied the Mayor of Salford and its Sanitary Committee over the New Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

## "MRS. HARRIS'S" REFLECTIONS.

NO. I.—ON DETERMINATION.

I SAYS to 'Arris, I says, There's a great deal more in what is called determinashun than most folks thinks for. I likes them there people as don't know when they're beaten; they gets on in the long run some how, and generally the best at the finish. At first they staggers a good deal if the knock-down they gets is a very heavy 'un, but then, lor' bless you, they soon finds their pins agin, and begins to go on quite fresh like, and by-and-bye, they feels as though nothink partickler had ever happened, and wonders what in the name of gracious they stopped for at all. Of course I thinks a lot likewise of them men and wimmin who never makes no mistakes, and knows so much of the world as they can allus steer themselves clear through everythink. There isn't many of 'em, and I allus 'as to make a chalk mark when I meets 'em, so as I shan't forget 'em; but give me the pickers-up, I calls 'em, who come up in spite of all misfortuns smiling to the scratch, and toe the mark agin fair and square; there's grit in such ones as them, there is, and I prefers 'em much above them there lackydazical sort of weak bodies who, sighin' and whimperin' through life, saying as how their troubles is their kissmeet.\*

## NURSING ECHOES.

\* \* \* Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are specially invited for these columns.

I WOULD advise every nurse who can beg, borrow, or buy the new paper, *The Woman's World*, for this month, to read the eloquent and instructive article which it contains on nursing by H.R.H. Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein.

BUT to those who cannot get the paper, a brief abstract of the article may prove interesting. It commences by showing how in the middle ages women practised nursing and medicine under full legal authority; then proves that from the Crimean War dates the development of modern scientific nursing. Lady Roberts' scheme for sending out nurses from England for our sick soldiers in India is then described. Finally, eloquent testimony is borne to the arduous life of a nurse, to the great and increasing improvements of late years in the social position of nurses, to their natural desire, therefore, to unite for their mutual help and advancement; and, as the outcome of this growing feeling, an account is therefore given of the British Nurses' Association and its objects.

\* The old lady evidently means Kismet.—ED.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)