

necessary to enlarge it, and this was done by erecting additional wings, the Hospital now containing one hundred and four beds. In spite of every economy, there is a debt upon the Charity of nearly £3,000, and it is proposed to hold a bazaar in Whit week next in the hopes of securing a sufficient sum to pay this off. At present forty beds remain unoccupied for want of funds.

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THE General Hospital, Bristol, was, a few days ago, in imminent danger of destruction. A fearful explosion occurred in the Bathurst Basin, which is in proximity to the Hospital, by a naphtha ship being blown up. It naturally produced great consternation amongst the patients, numbering over one hundred and fifty. The Wards for surgical cases were chiefly affected. By the activity of the Medical Staff and numerous helpers the patients were removed to places of safety as quickly as possible, and apparently without any ill effects beyond fright. The building has sustained considerable damage. A Government inquiry is being held as to the cause of the disaster.

### WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

THE sayings and doings of the Empress Frederick are all of interest to her countrywomen, to whom she has set such a noble example, by whom she is universally admired and beloved. This august lady was much pleased by a little surprise which was prepared for her on board the Royal yacht when she crossed from Flushing. The little daughter of the German Consul presented a beautiful bouquet of fresh violets (the late Emperor's favourite flower) to Her Majesty, and in the saloon a large wreath, also chiefly consisting of violets, had been put on the table, bearing on the white ribbons, in gilt letters, the inscription—"To Her Majesty Empress Frederick, from many inhabitants of the Dutch province of Zeeland." The Empress has manifested on more than one occasion her deep personal interest in the education of women in Germany, and has lately presented her portrait to the Victoria High School for Girls in Berlin. She has also founded six endowments of one hundred and twenty marks each, in order to provide free education for necessitous and deserving pupils in the above-mentioned Institution.

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MISS VON HOERSCHELMANN has been granted special permission to dedicate her "Historical and Artistic Guide to Italy" to the Empress Frederick, before whom and the late Emperor this gifted lady has frequently lectured. Every book that

is dedicated to the Imperial Family of Germany has to satisfy the requirements of a council of scientific specialists, and if the work contains nothing absolutely new the dedication is not permitted. Happily for the authoress, the Empress herself intervened upon this occasion in her favour

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BEFORE leaving Germany for England, the Empress Frederick had all the memorials of her late consort brought from Friedrichskron to her palace in Berlin. In the room in which he was born and died inscriptions are to be placed, and a cross is to be inlaid in the floor, to indicate the spot on which his death-bed stood.

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THE majority of mothers will not agree with the irrepressible "British Matron," who, in an article in an evening contemporary, states that "It requires no training to look well after a baby." In fact, the vast responsibility which the care of an infant entails cannot be too earnestly, or too often, impressed upon women of all classes—mothers and maids. How many little lives are nipped in the bud by ignorant and careless attendants is not easily estimated; and I would warn all young mothers, who are themselves unable to take entire charge of their babies, to be most careful in the choice of the woman who is to be entrusted with the care of their children. Before all things, the Nursemaid must have the invaluable knowledge of a child's requirements, which experience alone can teach; she must be a woman possessed of physical strength, cleanly habits, and cheerful disposition; and I should imagine that few mothers would find this combination of virtues in the class of young girls, whose age and health would disqualify them for the duties of a Probationer in a Hospital. An excellent little pamphlet is to be found amongst the many useful publications of the National Health Society, called "Babies," which might be studied by all women having the care of young children with great advantage.

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VISCOUNTESS HARBERTON has lately been addressing a well-filled room full of ladies on her favourite subject, "Rational Dress for Women." She says the female garb of to-day is intensely dirty; the skirt neither wholly escapes the pavement or the ruts. Ladies have but to notice the difference of a man or child returning from a muddy walk, and then to turn up the hem of their own gown to see the truth of this. It is also inconvenient in innumerable other ways, and in consequence of wearing it women took up the space of three men. The truth of this statement depends, I suppose, on the size of the men! Shop-going, amongst a

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