

Wards in that Hospital, holding the appointment only for four months, when she was elected to her present appointment out of more than one hundred candidates. It will be seen that Miss Forbes is fully qualified by a varied and ripe experience for the post she holds.

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THE St. Helens (Lancashire) Cottage Hospital has just issued its report for the past year, from which I gather that "the Hospital is in a prosperous and satisfactory position, and the Committee have much pleasure in congratulating the subscribers and all connected with the institution on its increased usefulness and the ever-increasing advantages which it is enabled to offer." Two hundred patients had been treated. There is a satisfactory balance in hand, and everything looks rosy, as far as the Cottage Hospital is concerned, in this town of chemicals and—smells.

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LAST year's report of the Hamilton Association for Providing Trained Male Nurses is also to hand, and I read that "considerable progress—both financially and otherwise—has been made during the year just terminated, and that the institution may now be fairly regarded as permanently established on a firm basis;" and also "the training of men as Nurses is a branch of the work in which an advance has been made during the year. Up to the present date, seven men have been entered for training at one of the Metropolitan hospitals," all of which is most satisfactory reading; and I wish the excellent Association continued success, and a speedy growth to entire self-support.

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I OBTAIN this from a Transatlantic contemporary, and I think it may interest my readers:—"The babies of this nation (Japan) are not 'bottle-fed'—rarely artificially fed. Should necessity demand it they are given thin rice-water or mother-chewed rice-cake. These are the 'baby-foods' of Japan. Their women nurse their offspring, and rarely wean them, sometimes having three children of different ages at the breast. The breasts of many of them never rest from secreting milk. Mastitis is frequent, but cancer of the breast is rare. I did not meet with one case."

S. G.

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

LADY DENTISTS.

THESE, like the Amazon regiments of Europe, are still in the future tense, though one or two have already appeared, like the early flowers,

to show men what to expect later. Oh, this age of advance! Twenty years ago people screamed and shuddered at the bare thought of a lady becoming a doctor, and would surely have fainted at the very mention of the word Lady Dentist, yet nowadays feminine M.D.'s are recognised as a necessary good and are found to be quite equal to their work; and I prophesy ditto ditto with regard to the lady dentist, long ere a score of years have come and gone, even though English people do take a long time to get accustomed to anything new. If I may use a strange simile, they, like the dogs, must sniff it round first. This nation may count itself fortunate in the fact that our lady pioneer dentist, she who has dared to be the first, and to take for the sake of others that *première pas qui coûte*, thoroughly understands her profession. Dentistry is a profession, reader, and a science, though but a new profession and a new science; as for many years it was most strangely neglected, and anyone was thought good enough for the delicate operation of drawing a tooth. Fraulein Olga von Oertzen, on the persuasion of her friends, gave up a good practice in her own country to start the ball rolling here. Through her skill and patience she is obtaining a good connection in spite of difficulties of sex and nationality. Her waiting and operating rooms looked very cosy and well arranged when I went over them, and the sight of the kindly yet clever face of the Fraulein would at once inspire confidence in the most nervous of patients. Her terms are the same as most dentists', but not so exorbitant as some of the West End ones, who ask a guinea a word. Among her patients are several of the lords of creation, but she is a great adept with children. She believes in filling, and never, she boasts, draws a tooth if extraction can be possibly avoided. Fraulein von Oertzen practises American dentistry, for though a German by birth, she was educated in dentistry in America, and has the diploma of the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery. She is highly in favour of the American system, and considers that dentistry is carried to a far higher science there than in any other country. The course at the Philadelphia College is two years. The work is hard, the daily routine being as follows: nine to eleven, artificial teeth; eleven to one, lectures; two to four, practical work; four to six, lectures again; and nine to eleven, anatomy. Unfortunately, except Harvard, the American degrees are not recognised in England, yet so greatly does Fraulein von Oertzen believe in it that she recommends strongly a year of study there after the English diploma has been taken, when the one year will qualify for the Pennsylvanian one. To encourage dentists to be, I must quote Fraulein's words,

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