

the profits of which will go towards defraying the cost of a clock for the Home. I hope Mrs. WILLIAMSON will, if she has not already done so, wear her badge on these occasions, and like the many other members of the Association now lecturing in various parts of the country, take the opportunity of explaining to her audience what the objects of the Royal British Nurses' Association are, and especially the importance of the Registration of Trained Nurses in protecting the public. From all sides, I hear how Nursing reform is being advocated in this way by Members of the Association in their various Lecturing tours.

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I HOPE that a long felt want on the part of English visitors travelling in Northern Italy, will be met by the opening of an English Nurses' Institution at San Remo, in October, when the Lady Superintendent and an efficient staff of Nurses will enter upon their winter duties in this popular health resort.

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THE *Queen* of the 17th inst. gives an excellent copy of the well-known picture of Mr. R. J. ABRAHAM, "Nurses off Duty"—two Bart.'s Nurses, by their uniform, who, in comfortable attitudes, are, our contemporary believes, "discussing the eight-hours' question."

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LAST week our contemporary had an article on "Rural District Nursing," pointing out the necessity of this branch of the work, and advising those "who do not aspire to the exalted dignity of Hospital Matrons" to "think of rural Nursing," where they will "have a little salary of £25 or £30 in addition to board and lodging in some simple cottage," and "be the happy possessor moreover of a donkey cart." The article, as my readers will immediately infer, is, unlike the excellent contributions usually found in this chief amongst women's papers, written by some lady unacquainted with Nursing matters, and is rather too condescendingly patronising in its tone, to do more than create amusement amongst Nurses. The writer states that the Rural Nursing Association has taken a London office, and that Miss OLDHAM, who, I am sorry to learn, has resigned her post of Matron of the Salop Infirmary, will be the superintendent and secretary.

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MY energetic colleague, Miss ANNESLEY KENEALY, of whom the rest of the staff of THE NURSING RECORD are naturally very proud, is, I am glad to hear, quite well, and has just returned from Hamburg, the stress of work at the Eppendorfer Hospital in which she and her sister, Miss HENRIETTA KENEALY, were volunteer Nurses, having now considerably subsided. The *British Medical Journal*,

last week, had a most interesting article from her fluent pen, upon her experiences, of which the following important facts should be noted and remembered by Nurses :—

"It has been said that at least two-thirds of cholera patients die of fright, but the experiences on which this opinion were founded were gathered in India, where it is doubtless true. Though possible in the highly-nervous Hindu, it is not easy to believe of the phlegmatic German; yet some of these people have a stricken startled stare. The delirium or lethargic drowsiness, both of which are common, show that the disease makes some special attack upon the nervous system. It is stated that the brain and nervous centres are being now more affected than in the earlier days of the epidemic. I have seen two cases of absolute dementia resulting from cholera, the patient being perfectly imbecile and apathetic, looking with vacant, meaningless eyes, the features pinched, the complexion dusky, the temperature persistently and considerably below the normal. In both cases—which ended fatally—there was the utmost difficulty in persuading the women to take food. Some of the patients shriek wildly and at the top of their voices day and night."

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PNEUMONIA is a frequent complication and increases the resemblance to typhoid, which is so striking in the less acute cases. There is a convalescent girl in whom symptoms of rapid phthisis have made their appearance. A great number of the patients suffer from a pustular eruption extending over the lower half of the back, some times reaching as high as the shoulders. The skin is much inflamed, and sprinkled more or less plentifully with large pustular, unwholesome-looking spots. I do not know if the rash be only incidental, but it is so general, and is in all cases alike, so that it would appear to be a true accompaniment of cholera. Bed-sores are very frequent, appearing in a few days and spreading rapidly. It may be supposed that with the unhealthy condition of the back, it is difficult to prevent these, and the use of the draw-sheet is not here carried to such a fine art as it is at home. At the height of the epidemic thousands of bottles of seltzer-water were consumed daily, the patients not being permitted to drink or even wash in water which had not previously been boiled, and there being a scarcity of this. Even now a big van comes, morning and night, to take away the empty mineral water bottles. With thirst as intense as it is from the beginning of the attack until convalescence is established, patients frequently spring out of bed and unless prevented drink any liquid they can seize upon. One hears a "thud," and on looking round sees a staggering creature making for the tables where the mugs stand, or a patter of small feet calls attention to some infant who has scrambled from its cot and is running feverishly to and fro in search of a draught.

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THE lips are dry and cracked, the mouth inside, sore, parched, and often bleeding; the tongue is coated with a thick fur. In the ward there is a large bottle labelled "Potus Hydrochloricus," a measure of which is mixed with the medicines, and of this "potus" convalescents are allowed to drink freely, and they make the most of their permission. In some wards ice *ad libitum* is given, patients crying for it even when pulseless, cold, and collapsed. In other wards ice is not approved, as it is believed to check the perspiration. In these, very hot drinks, such as coffee, soup, and mulled claret are given to encourage free action of the skin. Velge, a kind of oatmeal gruel, is a favourite form of diet; some patients are confined strictly to this and claret. Milk is given only to children and infants, but even these prefer the accustomed sausage and coffee."

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