

Our Foreign Letter.

PRIVATE NURSING IN AMERICA

(BY AN ENGLISH NURSE IN NEW YORK).

So far, after nearly three years, I have found private Nursing to be much the same in America as in England, so far as the actual work goes. I have a furnished room in a private house where a few other private Nurses have rooms. The prices of these rooms vary according to their size and degree of comfort, and to the locality of the house, arranging between \$2.25 and \$5, or, roughly speaking, from 9s. 6d. to £1.

I am supplied with bed linen, towels, and gas, and I have the use of the bathroom. During the winter, the house is heated by means of hot air. When "at home" I have the privilege of preparing my own breakfast and luncheon in the house, and, for that purpose, I keep myself supplied with provisions and utensils, and, for my third meal, I go to a neighbouring restaurant. Those Nurses who are more fastidious, and do not object to the trouble of going out frequently, make arrangements to go to some neighbouring house or boarding-house, where they can get all their meals, ranging, per week, or for so many meals, from \$4 upwards. Some private Nurses live in regular boarding-houses. Trained Nurses receive from \$21 to \$35, according to the nature of the work, per week, but the average price I believe is \$25, or £5. Living is much more expensive in New York than in London, so that the sum is not actually so much higher than English prices, as at first appears. Our position in the private house is, so far as I can see, much the same as in England. We are, as a rule, treated with courtesy and consideration, and our comfort studied—this state of affairs varies naturally according to the dispositions of our employers, just the same as it does in England. I have generally noticed that most courtesy is received from the highest and lowest—those of medium degree, whose position is equivocal, have corresponding manners. Almost invariably, when it is convenient, I take my meals with the family in whose house I am nursing, and receive every possible kindness. I shall, in time, I hope, collect information as to the rules made by different hospitals and institutions for hours of rest, and outdoor exercise for their Nurses, but my own hours vary according to circumstances. When working with a second Nurse we divide equally of course, and generally arrange so that we each may get some night sleep. When working singly, I believe we are entitled to at least six hours per day for sleep, and one hour for recreation, but very often we fare better than that. Just occasionally, as is the case with all Nurses I presume, we are hard pressed for sleep sufficient to keep us going, but usually that hardship has its compensation of interesting Nursing. A good many doctors, fortunately, look after their Nurses in the matter of sleep and outdoor exercise. With regard to dress, private Nurses do not wear an outdoor uniform—in fact a dress of that kind is rarely seen in the streets of New York. Indoors, the cap that has been worn in the hospital is generally discarded—washing dresses and aprons are worn. Amongst private Nurses the prefix of "Nurse" to the surname is never used—it is always "Miss" or "Mrs." Sometimes a Nurse is addressed as "Nurse," but generally by her name. In a few instances I have met with, great indignation has been expressed at the term "Nurse" being applied by the complainant's patient, or the latter's relatives.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



The Conference of Women Workers now in Session at Leeds is proving a great success, having drawn some of the most experienced and energetic workers together, and the subjects under discussion are of interest to every thoughtful woman. It is expected that the attendance will be as large as at Bristol last year, when about 1,500 women assembled. Two hundred and fifty delegates have accepted the invitation of the Hospitality Committee.

At the late Congress of the International Council of Women in Chicago, the following women were appointed as officers for the forthcoming five years:—President, Countess of Aberdeen; Recording Secretary, Madame Maria Martin, Paris; Treasurer, Baroness Alexandra Guipenberg, Finland; Vice-President at large, Mrs. Mary Wright Sewell, Indianapolis, U.S.A.; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Eva McLaren, London.

At the recent examination in the Royal University in Ireland, Miss Winifred Dickson, M.B., who had already obtained a gold medal at the degree examination in the spring, was awarded the travelling scholarship of £100 in Physiology and Pathology. At the M.D. examination, Miss Eleonora Henry, M.B., was awarded a gold medal. This degree is conferred at a period not less than three years after the M.B., and on a severe oral and clinical examination.

Miss Melian Stawell, a daughter of the late Chief Justice and Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria, recently obtained a first class in the first division of the Classical Tripos at Cambridge, after having studied at Trinity College, Melbourne, and subsequently at Newnham. On her return to Melbourne, she received an ovation from the women students and graduates of the Melbourne University, who hailed her as the first Australian woman who had gone to the Mother country and "measured herself against her compeers there."

At the annual conference of the Midland Union of Women's Liberal Associations at Hanley, Lady Gilzean Reid spoke strongly as to the evils arising from disunion over the question of the Suffrage. She claimed that the Parish Councils Bill was a stepping stone to the full citizenship of women. For the first time they had to recognise that they shared the responsibility of statesmanship, and any request from them based upon rational principles and expressing the desires of a large body of the people would receive the most serious consideration.

Mrs. Lucy Stone Blackwell, of Boston, is dead, and the world is the poorer. The story of her life is feelingly told in *The Boston Sunday Herald* by her daughter. She was principally known as one of the great pioneers of the Suffrage question in the States, and no doubt her immense influence and success was largely due to her gentle serenity of manner, and the beautiful simplicity of her life. "Lucy Stone" was a great feature at the Representative Woman's Congress at Chicago, and her sweet motherly face, under the white cap of her cottage bonnet, "spoke of serenity of spirit and love of her kind."

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