

home influences that beautify so many of our English institutions. The Nurses had no cosy recreation room to go to when they were "off-duty"—but, no doubt, all they cared for then was to go to bed—no mottoes or coloured prints broke the monotony of the varnished walls, no plants adorned the ward tables, no bright quilts the beds. I noticed no needlework for the women, no books or papers for the convalescent men, and, alas! *no toys for the children.* The patriarchal calm of a dot of three, who had recovered from the amputation of his leg, sitting toy-less and picture-less in the centre of a full-size bed, struck me as pitiful. I longed for a woolly lamb or a stuffed cock-a-too to break down that sublime dignity of his.

I marvelled at the absence of *fret*, and traced in that brave acceptance of the inevitable the legacy of hero-ancestors—ancestors whose simple names are lost in 10,000 cases—but the record of whose golden deeds of fortitude and faith shed radiance over Hungary's dark history.

The chapel was a nucleus of peace and rest. I was allowed a bird's-eye view from an upper window at the end of a corridor, and drew a rapid conclusion that the entire Sisterhood's artistic and decorative instincts retained vitality by its existence. It was quaintly sculptured, too, from the outside, and was altogether a dear little place. I realized that this was the moral and mental stronghold of those gentle Sisters, and the harmonies of that little place of worship came to me with re-actionary relief.

Before leaving the Rochus we peeped in at a very important chemical laboratory, *i.e.*, the kitchen. It was in the court-yard, in a separate building, and work was in full swing when we entered. As in other parts of the Institution the operators here could have done with four or five times the amount of elbow-room, and considering the tasks set and the conditions given, one was bound to see they did their best. The immense range stands in the middle, so that the Sister-cooks can pass easily round. (The size of a cooking range for 800 people naturally dwarfs all surrounding objects of a moderate-sized kitchen.)

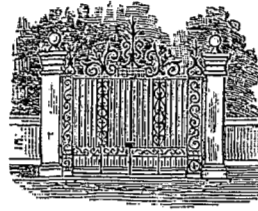
As for the food, it looked appetizing, and smelt savoury. Giant cauldrons, full of a delicious-looking kind of "Irish stew," prophesied hopeful things for convalescent suppers; lakes of yellow milk set to boil in equally gigantic utensils; and a copper that had a private fire in an isolated corner, and that looked like a *well* of soup, illustrated the fact that the inmates of Rochus were not underfed. At a side table a kind of national scone was being manufactured, in connection with which some fun seemed going on; but then it was evident that the Sisters as a body were enjoying their turn of kitchen work. What if they could hardly avoid treading on each other's toes, cheerful hearts make light of such trifles. The door was thrown wide open, and the fresh breath of the mildest February day I have known in Pesth blew in upon them, and, no doubt, helped to make those kindly faces bright. (One must appreciate having enough air, after having been restricted in that article, and good women can be thankful for so little).

It is in the New Rochus that the ideal of Hospital reform has been realized, and it is of this best and most remarkable Hospital in Hungary that my next letter will treat.

LINA MOLLETT.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



Her Royal Highness Princess Christian wrote to the Press, this week, bringing to the notice of the public the outlines of her scheme for the establishment of a self-supporting "school" of applied "design" for women in connection with the Royal School of Art Needlework.

The following is a brief statement of the main features of the undertaking:—

The proposal is to found a school where women may learn from practical teachers to design for various branches of decorative art.

Beginning with good draughtsmanship, in which each student will pass before going further to study.

Secondly, the various styles of architecture, to which all decorative art is more or less related; and with architecture will be connected the study of historic ornament.

Some of the heads of the special studies will be:—

1. The application of design to wall decorations—viz., wall-papers, silk tapestries, needlework, chintzes, frescoes, &c.

2. The application of design to floor decorations—viz., pavements, mosaics, rugs, carpets, linoleum, &c.

3. The application of design connected with architectural study, more especially to interior house decorations and fittings.

4. The application of design to various branches of metal work, ornamental plaster work and modelling, glass painting, furniture needlework, book illustrations, book covers, &c.

It is ultimately intended to form a library and museum in connection with the school.

It is estimated that the fees paid by the students will amply cover all expenses of management and tuition.

The sale of designs will be for the benefit of each designer, who will thereby receive the reward of individual talent and industry, even during the continuance of her tuition.

Princess Christian has promised to go to Oxford during Easter week to attend the National Union of Teachers' Conference and receive purses in aid of the charitable work connected with the Union. The Conference lasts from Easter Monday to Saturday, and the committee of welcome includes the vice-chancellor, as well as the heads of all the houses in Oxford.

The Duchess of Sutherland has joined the total abstinence section of the Church of England Temperance Society.

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