

Miss Fitzpatrick alluded to the Royal British Nurses' Association Sessional lecture recently given by Mrs. Hughes on "Why Nurses Break Down in Health," and mentions the interesting fact that all her probationers vastly improve in health during their training. This is an ideal state of things, and is only accomplished by watchful care, a sound dietary and hygienic surroundings.

All the ward tables are covered with white cloths, beautifully embroidered by Miss Fitzpatrick in washing flax. My eyes light on a charming design of a Scotch thistle. "And why not the Irish shamrock?" I ask.

Miss Fitzpatrick smiles and assures me that her name and the predominance of "the green" in her charming sitting-room has somewhat misled me; and that her nationality being both Scotch and Irish is represented in the thistle. With an eye on the domestic economy side of these artistic table covers, I inquire somewhat doubtfully as to whether their blended colours will endure the ordeal of the hospital "wash," and am assured that they have passed unscathed and unhurt.

Just a short tour of the wards and a peep into the operating theatre where all the fittings are excellent and "up to date"; and an admiring examination of a gas apparatus which ensures a plentiful supply of really *hot* water at all times, however suddenly the resources of the theatre may be called upon. A special commendation is deserved by the stove, for by means of it the temperature of the air may rapidly be brought up to any reasonable requirement.

The Convalescent Home which adjoins the hospital is home-like and cosy; and rightly, a fee of one shilling a day is required from all convalescents whose position allows them to pay it.

There is one regulation which must commend itself very highly, and that is the rule of accepting probationers on a three months' trial. The conventional one month does not give the pro. sufficient insight into hospital life to enable her to rightly judge if the work be suited to her. And it certainly does not give a Matron sufficient opportunity to study the capacities and latent possibilities of the "trial nurse." Miss Fitzpatrick's views are broad and progressive, and one feels that the Nurses under her charge are training under special advantages.

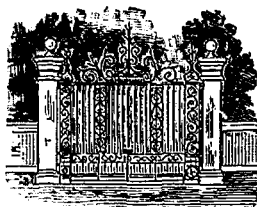
To my mind it was very pleasant and restful to find her on this Sunday afternoon receiving her friends out of uniform. I cannot help sharing her view that the occasional wearing of "mufti"—if I may so express it—is a beneficial change both mentally and physically. The bow cannot always be bent, and the head that is always fettered by starched cap strings is apt to go too much in one groove.

So Miss Fitzpatrick's practice of appearing on Sunday afternoons in the ordinary garb of social life, is an example to follow. The reproach is too often deserved, that Nurses forget how to put on their clothes and become somewhat "dowdy," and it is a great pity when such a statement is true. A certain care for personal appearance keeps up a grace and charm of mind which it is essential that all women workers should try to maintain.

SHAMROCK.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



LAST week the Princess of Wales returned to England from her long visit of condolence to the Dowager Czarina of Russia. Needless to say she received a most enthusiastic welcome.

The Empress Frederick, who is staying with the Queen at Osborne, last week commanded Miss Boecker, the only lady survivor of the "Elbe," to visit her and give her a verbal account of the disaster. The Royal Yacht was placed at Miss Boecker's service in crossing from Portsmouth.

The great event of last week was, of course, the opening of Parliament, and with it the awakening of the various activities of the country. The numerous women organisations are again pulling themselves together to watch carefully their opportunity. Are we within a short distance, they anxiously ask, of getting the suffrage, or will a Liberal government let that honour slip through its hands, and fall into those of a Conservative Ministry? But who can pierce the future? There is nothing for it but to wait events, prodding now this member and now that, to remind them that our memories are not so short as theirs. But then we are the creditors, and they the debtors.

The approaching election of the County Council recalls the struggle of a few years ago, when Lady Sandhurst and Miss Cons were elected to seats upon that body, but which they were quickly called upon to vacate, as they had invaded one of the privileges of the men. Such a one-sided anomaly cannot, however, exist long; and we may expect to see soon our most promising women putting forth their best efforts to be enrolled among that splendid municipal body, and thus to get that training in statesmanship which it has proved itself so able to impart for use in another House not a hundred miles from Spring Gardens.

The Woman's Signal has begun a vigorous crusade in view of the coming battle between the Progressives and the Moderates at the election of the London County Council. The last issue contained an interview with Mr. Costelloe, L.C.C., and a worker's catechism. Prominent writers and workers will contribute articles on the subject in the forthcoming issues.

It is stated that out of 100,000 women voters only 5,000 recorded their votes at the recent vestry elections. The National B.W.T.A. is doing its utmost to arouse the branches to active work during the next few weeks in the interests of the election. The members are especially urged to canvass women voters and inform them of the social and moral progress which has already been made in London, and secure their

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)