



Our American Letter.

BY AN ENGLISH NURSE IN NEW YORK.

THE fortnightly meetings at the Nurses' Club, 104, West 41st Street, came to an end a little earlier than usual this year, as the house had to be put into the hands of painters, and alterations made on account of a severance from the Church Hospital Dispensary which has removed to more convenient quarters farther "down town."

The club continues to be a great success, and notwithstanding the fact that last winter was not considered a good one for Nurses, there was no lack of work for the members, several of whom indeed broke down from overwork, and lucky were those who rented rooms in the club house, for they received most devoted attention from the housekeeper; her kind, motherly care averted more than one threatened case of pneumonia amongst "her girls," as she affectionately terms her lodgers. All this kind and unusual care helps very considerably in keeping the house completely filled, besides the inestimable comfort that each inhabitant has of knowing that however long she may be away from the club, her household gods will be respected—that nothing of hers will be, during her absence, destroyed or spoilt by rough handling, or accumulations of dust. The club is in fact looked upon as a "show house," ready at any moment for outside inspection. Our President, Mrs. Teachman, was sorely tempted this spring to take the next house just vacated by the dispensary; extreme caution alone prevented this step, for she has continual applications from Hospital Nurses for any possible vacancy in the club house, they telling her that during the past winter the club had the reputation of being one of the best patronised places for Nurses in the city. However, as the President has personally accepted the responsibility of "running" the house, and the expenses of starting it have been somewhat heavy, she wisely means to wait another year before deciding on doubling her rooms.

Our meetings have been more satisfactory than ever this year, the attendance has always been good, and the members much interested.

Our Mutual Benefit Association remains at a standstill so far as organisation is concerned, but we are very hopeful as to its future. Organisation in the way we wish means outlay of money, hence our decision to wait a little longer before calling a meeting in its behalf. Our fund in the meantime is safely deposited in a bank and drawing interest, and new members and honorary members adding to its bulk. So far we have only had two members to assist, the latter being an overworked club member, who, owing to the nature of her serious illness—connected with the mastoid process—was obliged to enter a Hospital to undergo an operation.

By the way, this club membership has another advantage for those—and their name is legion—who are separated from their families. The members consider it their duty, when it is possible or permissible, to visit those of their fraternity who are ill, and thus remove that terrible feeling of loneliness that will creep in sometimes, especially when one is "out of sorts." Our President takes the lead in all such kindly acts, and spares many an hour from her actively busy life to look up the sick members and take them flowers and books, besides leaving them with the comforting feeling that she is interested in them as fellow workers and fellow creatures. She has been ill herself lately, for the first time requiring skilled Nursing, and she has come to the conclusion that "Nurses are fine!" their poultices alone being infinitely superior to the amateur kind which so often "are liquid and don't stay in their place!" I went to see her when she was a prisoner to her bed, and was amused to find how much she was luxuriating in the affectionate attendance she was receiving from those club members who happened to be free at the time.

Shortly before our club meetings ceased for the winter season, we entertained the members of the Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses. We had extended an invitation to them to meet us at our club the previous season, but their engagements were many months deep, and so they were unable to accept until this last spring. On that evening a goodly number of our club members met at 104, West 41st Street, dressed in their Nursing uniforms, which are many and varied in style and colour, and, with our President, welcomed our guests for the evening. The Guild of St. Barnabas opened the meeting in the usual way with a church service, which was conducted on that occasion by the Rev. W. W. Moir, assistant at the Church of the Holy Communion, whose rector, the Rev. Dr. Henry Mottet, is chaplain to the New York branch of the Guild. The social part of the evening began immediately at the close of the service, when the guests passed into the club reception rooms, and someone of our many kind friends began playing a bright air on the piano. Altogether the reception was a most successful one and very crowded, there being hardly standing room for guests and hostesses, although for the time being we had to enlarge our reception room by throwing open other rooms. We regaled our friends with coffee, tea, ice cream, and other light refreshments, and there was not one flagging moment all the evening.

Our rooms and refreshment table were beautifully decorated by a friend of our President, Miss Garrison, who was kind enough to give us her services. She has started a business in this line of work in New York.

June 30th, 1895.

Inventions, Preparations, &c.

ROWLAND'S KALYDOR.

A PREPARATION for the skin which has stood the test of sixty years of experience, and is more popular to-day than it has ever been before, would seem to require very little else to recommend it, but we so frequently receive inquiries from our readers on such points as the practical

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)