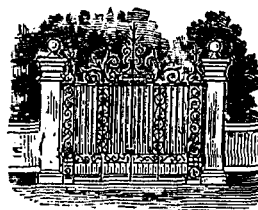


## Our Foreign Letter.

BY OUR MELBOURNE CORRESPONDENT.

YOU will see from the Melbourne papers of November 22nd and December 18th that an attempt has been made to pass a Bill to bring our Hospitals under the "Shops and Factory Act," the Nurses not to be allowed to work more than eight hours a day. The movement has very little root in the *actual nursing world*, for comparatively few Nurses know anything about it, and have not gone thoroughly into what it would mean for them. They ought to know that it would involve a much longer time for training to entitle them to their certificates, if several hours a day are taken off their time on duty; for in three years, if the eight hours' system came in force, they would not have gained the necessary experience to warrant them receiving them; and few of them, I feel sure, are prepared to give up more than three years to obtain general training. Apart from this, the women whose hearts are in their profession (as well as having the object of livelihood before them) object to being considered "factory hands," both for their own and their patients' sake. Pupil Nurses are *graduates for a profession*, and God forbid they should ever begin to look on their suffering patients as anything else than fellow human beings, drawing out all their best and tenderest feelings, and never may they begin to think of them as material upon which they are to work to fashion themselves into Nurses. When the Bill went to the Upper House it was treated in a sensible manner, the Attorney-General saying that the less said about the hours given to nursing in the charities the better; and certainly if he could see the devotion of some of our Hospital Sisters and Nurses, he would surely feel justified in not wishing to see any other spirit actuating the women who take up Nursing. Dr. Embling, M.L.C. and Chairman of the Honorary Medical Staff of the Alfred Hospital, also discouraged any alteration in the hours. I think myself no Hospital should expect its Nurses to work from, say, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. without any interval for rest except the half-hour for meals—they should have two or three hours for rest and recreation; but no doubt the Hospital authorities will see their way to doing this if their Matrons stir them up a little. My own experience has been with men's Committees, and they certainly have always tried to ameliorate any hardships brought under their notice. The Hospitals governed by women are not so leniently dealt with out here. Their hours are longer, their work heavier, and they have to work the *whole* of their first training year without *any pay*. I always think they should remember Our Lord's words, "The labourer is worthy of his hire," as well as the bread he eats; and some do not even give the pupil Nurses their uniforms. In Sydney, these things are more equitably seen to than in Victoria. We are certainly behind them in many respects in our nursing world. Private individuals, as well as the public in Sydney, show much more generosity of spirit to Nurses also, than is experienced in Melbourne, as can be seen by the comforts bestowed on their beautiful Hospitals for the Nurses' use and comfort,

## Outside the Gates.



THE Flying Squadron, now lying off Spithead, will proceed to Cowes Roads on Saturday to await the arrival of the *Blenheim*, with the remains of Prince Henry of Battenberg. The body will then be transferred to the *Alberta*, which will steam through the lines, the Fleet saluting with minute guns. The body is to remain on the *Alberta* all night, the funeral taking place next day. The road to Whippingham Church from Cowes is to be lined with soldiers and blue jackets from the Squadron. It had been intended that the body should be interred at the Mausoleum at Frogmore, but a clause in the will of the late Prince Henry gave expression to a wish that he might be buried in the Isle of Wight, of which he was so fond. So the little church of Whippingham will be the scene of the opening romance—the wedding—and the closing tragedy—the funeral.

It is very pleasant to look forward to the peaceful and safe return of the troops from Ashanti; and it is gratifying to feel that a British Protectorate has been established to put an end to the barbarities and human sacrifices which have been the order of the day for many years at Kumasi. Sir Francis Scott has been received with enthusiasm by the inhabitants of the villages passed on the way down from Kumasi. The natives are delighted that an end has been put to the Ashanti rule.

The chief point to be noticed in connection with the Expedition, which is now practically over, is the splendid work done by the Transport and Medical Services. The zeal displayed by the Army Medical Staff in their attention to the sick deserves the highest praise. Especially worthy of mention are the surgeons attached to the British regiments. Surgeon-Captain Maher, of the 2nd West Yorkshire Battalion, was often to be seen carrying kits and rifles for the men, relinquishing his own hammock to attend to their comfort. The men themselves behaved pluckily. Coming straight from Aden, they felt the effects of the climate greatly. Nevertheless, they struggled bravely on, carrying 70 rounds of ammunition in addition to their marching kit, looking pale and worn many of them, but determined not to fall out. The march to Kumasi has proved terribly trying. All look haggard and pale, even those who have escaped an attack of fever.

By the death of Lord Leighton, on the 25th inst., Art loses one of its great masters. He had for the past twelve months been suffering from heart affection; a sudden chill caught in the fog a week ago aggravated his illness. Shortly before two o'clock a change for the worse occurred, and feeling that he was sinking, Lord Leighton, holding up his hands, exclaimed, "My love to the Academy." He shortly afterwards expired.

As the late President was unmarried, the title becomes extinct. His personality was undoubtedly

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