

real significance of that sally of my esteemed instructor, Professor Terrier, 'A Hospital Nurse ought to be a laywoman, pretty, lively and lovely.' When one has visited a number of American Hospitals it is easy to appreciate the indisputable moral and social weight of this *bon-mot*, though apparently a mere gallantry."

No doubt the American Nurses will feel very pleased and flattered at this very French tribute to their charms.

In a later part of his Report he speaks with much enthusiasm of the quarters provided for Nurses in the Hospitals of the United States, as compared with those in Paris. He says:—

"The Nurses' Home of the Johns Hopkins is almost a palace, in which soft carpets and stairs of white and dazzling marble contrast wonderfully with the tattered straw matting and wooden ladders of the Hospital of Pity, or *La Salpêtrière*. Not only have we in France nothing comparable to it, but there does not exist in our country an Institution which can really be said to be an autonomous and complete school of lay Hospital Nurses. What has been done in Paris in this direction cannot be compared with similar institutions in the United States."

THERE has been a battle going on in Brooklyn, New York, as to the fees which private Nurses should be paid. Several medical men have been writing to the papers stating that trained Nurses are paid too much. And the Nurses have been defending themselves. One writes in the *Trained Nurse*:—

"DEAR EDITOR:—May I tell you what private nursing in middle-class families at fifteen dollars (£3) a week means? We, who have been 'out' ten years and more, know how much it means, and how profitable. Three weeks is the usual length of the engagement. The first ten days means two hours' sleep out of the twenty-four, the next ten days you may possibly have six hours' sleep, but then, of course, you are 'resting' and have 'nothing to do'—it being a firm article of belief that Nurses are bound to work day and night. You go home with a trunkful of soiled clothes, thoroughly exhausted. It means spending a good deal of money on washing and travelling expenses to avoid unpleasantness. It means more money for tonics, to brace up for the next case. A very busy year in good times means forty weeks' work in the year. Nowadays, with so many Nurses, you are fortunate to secure thirty-two weeks' work in the year, even at fifteen dollars a week. We cannot afford to exhaust ourselves as we do for twenty-one dollars a week, and certainly cannot afford to give free service outside our own families. If you send your doctor word that you are too tired to take his case, that settles you with him, although often you are 'sick abed' when you do so. In the 'rural districts' the natives are not willing to pay more than a dollar a day. All the capital the majority of Nurses have is their health and profession. During our term of Hospital service we hope that we are acquiring a profession which will give us an honourable livelihood, and help us to make a provision for old age, and we

are just as discouraged as any other wage-earning woman would be, when we find that we cannot do it. We may pay our living expenses, but save? Not on fifteen dollars a week. A good dressmaker has two and a half and three dollars a day, her board, evenings, nights, and Sundays; yet no one says that she is overpaid, or suggests that in her resting time she should teach the poor, or work for them free of charge.

A Nurse is willing to work; she would be glad to help the sick and suffering, but she must also help herself. As Samantha says: 'Not but what I am willing to coo if I only had the time,' or, in other words, if I had the strength and a small private income, I, in common with many Nurses, would be willing to work for less than the standard price, and even, sometimes, give my services 'free, gratis, for nothing.'"

THE natives of South Africa some years since had a very deep-rooted prejudice against entering Hospitals. But they are growing out of it, and beginning to appreciate skilled care and Nursing in their time of need. A medical officer recently said: "It is encouraging to note the way in which the old native prejudice against Hospitals is disappearing in South Africa, for we find that the natives are, very frequently indeed, voluntarily seeking admission, instead of having to be argued into coming in, as used to be often the case. This change is, we think, to be ascribed in no small degree to the uniform kindness with which the coloured patients are treated by the Lady Superintendents and the Nursing staffs."

A MEMBER of the R.N.S. writes from Cairo:—"This war is causing the greatest excitement here. One regiment left yesterday, and the rest are to follow soon. It is a pity the Volunteer Nurses' Corps is not organised, for now is the time they will be wanted. One of the Cairo Lady (?) Nurses offered her services, but report says the General refused to accept her, saying he required 'Nurses, not women.' If it is true, I think he deserves a cheer."

THERE has just been placed in the Chapel at Westminster Hospital a memorial brass to Nurse Margaret Allen, who died last autumn at Luton, at the close of the typhoid epidemic, in which she had volunteered her services. The following is the text of the inscription:—"In loving memory of Nurse Margaret Anderson Allen, who died at Luton, Beds., in the faithful discharge of her duty, Nov. 30th, 1895. 'He that loseth his life shall save it.'"

DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.
DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.
DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.
DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.
DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.

Recalls the Delicious Tea of Thirty Years Ago.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)