

poor patients.) But some of these unfortunately do manage to get round the authorities, and find their way on to the Nursing staff, to the after grief of all concerned. But, happily, Australia can boast of some exceedingly bright and clever Nurses, as well as some of the kindest, best, and most enduring it has been my happy lot to witness, both in private and public work. The short terms of training up to the present, *i.e.*, one, and then increased to two years, glutted the Nursing market, for in all the Australian colonies there are Nurse Training Schools. Now, to their credit, all the important ones have adopted the three years' system, which is better both for the Nurses themselves, and the patients nursed by them, and last, if not least, for the poor Sisters who are so weary of seeing the never ending new pros. The number of colonial Nurses is quite sufficient for the demand, without being augmented with old or delicate ones, who cannot stand the climate of the mother country, and still less ready do they seem when once out here to adapt themselves to their new surroundings or make the best of everything when the unexpected occurs. The young, strong, willing, and *capable* Nurse (more especially if good looking) comes to the fore, but to permanently succeed a Nurse *must have ability*, and above all, tact. In these days nothing else will stand the professional test.

In Melbourne, private Hospitals are plentiful as blackberries. Dr. Fitzgerald's is, of course, the best, and for his own patients only. It was fully described in the *Lancet* sometime ago by Dr. Woolf. Everything is done as it ought to be for the patient's comfort, and expense not spared. All the nursing is done by *competent trained Nurses*; in most of the others, untrained so-called Nurses (many of whom have never seen the inside of a Hospital ward) don a Nurse's uniform, take her title, and undertake her duties. It is astonishing the things that take place, which are related both by doctors and ex-patients, and still they exist. In some instances trained Nurses are the heads of these private Hospitals, but they seem to have sunk into nothing but money grabbers. The patients' comfort, and in some instances their lives, are matters of small consideration, so long as fees are forthcoming. I know of one instance where an abdominal section was done, the bedclothes were unwashed from the previous case, paper used instead of waterproof sheeting, the result was not surprising. The patient became septic and died.

The best Trained Nurses' Institute is the one in Exhibition Street. None but the best Nurses are engaged there, preferably those holding a three years' certificate. There are several other Nurses' Homes scattered about, but I have heard and seen little of them. The medical men fully appreciated the one above named. As to treatment of Nurses, on the whole it is not bad. Sometimes a wealthy family will wish for a refined, educated Nurse in preference to the previously engaged Gamp, and then give the former the same treatment, wishing her to have meals with servants, &c., and the usual unpleasantness arises, the poor Nurse then fares badly at the hands of the maids; but as in England, so here, on *the whole* Nurses are *well and kindly treated* by rich and poor. Fees are about the same as in England, two guineas a week, and for infectious cases three guineas a week. Monthly nursing used to be ten guineas a month, but is generally eight guineas now.

Melbourne is well supplied with General Hospitals,

and the specials only require one more—*i.e.*, one for infectious and contagious diseases, which it is a great pity that the Sisters of St. Vincent did not undertake instead of opening another General Hospital, which was not needed, and which is kept very short of contributions, whereas an infectious Hospital would have been well supported. The Melbourne Hospital is the largest in the colony, and is the principal Medical School in connection with the University; it has over 300 beds, of which few are empty for any time. The death-rate is very heavy, as nothing is refused admission so long as they have a bed (drawing the line, of course, at small-pox). Even the latter, with all their precautions, has shown its noisome presence more than once, and naturally created a scare. All colonials dread this almost unknown plague out *hère* more than any other evil under heaven. Their own much-cultivated typhoid they seem to hug, by their inattentions to the commonest sanitation, which yearly sweeps off so many of our most promising strong, young people. They seem to have become used to it. But until the sanitary arrangements of Melbourne are very different to what they have been and are now, typhoid will increase and flourish, going on as it is this season like a vile plague in our midst. "The Melbourne" Nurses get excellent experience, as typhoid Nurses certainly, the seven medical wards not having sufficient beds to receive all the fever cases that would fain be admitted. Six of the wards are for surgical cases, three tents for infectious and contagious disease, one lock ward for women, one diphtheria ward, and three refractory wards. The Nursing staff of seventy is small for the number of patients, but the heavy ward work is done by wards-maids; and the Nurses are very happy and contented, though some outsiders, I think, would fain believe otherwise. The Nursing is well done, and the wards spotlessly clean and well ordered.

A colonial Hospital like the Melbourne, built fifty years ago, when beauty of architecture was not considered a necessity for charitable Institutions, cannot lay claim to being picturesque, but it does a grand work in the heart of Melbourne for its needy poor, and its well kept, trim grounds are a bright spot for the convalescent patients to rest their eyes upon. An upward step was taken about six years ago when Miss Rathie, a fully Trained Nurse of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, was elected Matron. Reforms were by degrees introduced, and a modern school of Nurse Training began. Of course many and great were the difficulties she had to overcome, as all Matrons know who have had to break up fallow ground, and do that hardest part of all, *weeding*. It was after Miss Rathie's (Mrs. Cutts) resignation, that the three years' system was sanctioned by the Committee. The lectures to the pupils are given in alternate courses by two of the Honorary Medical Staff. Elementary Anatomy and Surgical Nursing by one of the surgeons, and Physiology and Medical Nursing by one of the physicians. The Matron lectures on Practical Nursing and the Ethics of Nursing and Bandaging, taking her classes three times a week.

The Alfred Hospital from its pleasant situation, facing Falkner Park, and lying as it does in about thirteen acres of ground, surrounded also with other Institutions which have been equally blessed with plenty of land, little wonder then that the patients and Nurses revel in fresh pure air, and delicious grounds and gardens. This Hospital is built in the modern

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