

IN connection with the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, a free service of nursing for the poor in their own homes has just been inaugurated. District nursing, as we understand it, is very much of a novelty in the United States and a great deal remains to be done before the system begins to reach our point of perfection. So that, while in nursing matters we have a good deal to learn from our Transatlantic friends, they can take points from us also.

IN a lecture delivered to a class of Nurses, Dr. John Hildreth, of Baltimore, in speaking of the mechanical method of nursing, said:—"Do not go about with a watch in your hand, saying to the patient, 'Now it is time for your bath, or your nap, or this and that;' or, 'You must take your medicine now.'"

In illustration of the kind of Nurse he meant, he told the following story:—"When trained Nurses first became available, a wealthy lady who was my patient said she must have one. The Nurse was eager, competent and kind-hearted to the last degree, but she was extremely punctual and precise, and when she stood beside the patient's bed she was more than erect, and looked ready for anything. Two days after she came my patient asked her to retire a moment in order that she might confer with me. When the nurse had left the room and the door closed behind her, my patient turned to me and said, 'I have had enough of this machine nursing. Do you know a good motherly woman? If you do, get her to come and take care of me.'"

Dr. Hildreth said:—"That Nurse had been over-trained. She was what I call a 'rule-of-thumb' Nurse. And in this connection let me say that the element of motherliness enters almost indispensably into the art of Nursing. Next to motherhood, there is no vocation so noble for women as that of the Nurse, and the two are closely akin in instinct which gives them value. Many a man, sick away from home, has longed for nothing so much as the touch of his mother's hand. The Nurse may not wholly take that place, but she should try. The touch of a Nurse should be like the touch of a mother. The Nurse who is mechanical or artificial, as a result of her temperament or training, is not a proper person to minister to the sick. The training of a Nurse in the Hospital sometimes hardens her, and makes her contemptuous of her patients' fancies, and even callous to their suffering. Such a Nurse is always a failure in private Nursing."

DURING the recent terrible cyclone at St. Louis a great strain was put on doctors, Nurses, and

ambulance arrangements. Owing to the severe injuries inflicted on such large numbers, it was very difficult to organise sufficient First Aid; but the citizens rose to the occasion, and generously gave up their private houses to be used as Hospitals.

COMPETENT Midwives and Monthly Nurses are badly needed in the Colony of South Africa. All Nurses who intend to go abroad, or to seek their fortunes in any of the Colonies should remember that obstetric training is most essential to their prospects and success.

A MEDICAL man living in Cape Town recently wrote: "There appears to be a very prevalent idea that any part of South Africa has a curative and beneficial effect on consumption. From a very long experience I have come to the conclusion that those suffering from this disease should seek drier and more rarified air than that of the sea-port towns, and so reap the full benefit which the climate of South Africa does undoubtedly afford in a large number of these distressing cases."

THE following occurs in a report by the Medical Superintendent of the Graham's Town Asylum, South Africa:—"There were three deaths from general paralysis, and one due to simple exhaustion from melancholia. In this latter case life was sustained for upwards of nine months, the patient having to be fed artificially three times daily during all this time. Besides beef tea, milk, &c., she had from sixteen to twenty-four eggs daily during this period. In spite of this exposition on the 'gospel of fatness'—and the eggs alone represent a money value of upwards of £21—her digestive organs failed to assimilate this nourishment, and death took place from simple inanition."

It certainly seems as if excess of zeal were in this case added to excess of provender. Certainly, if four eggs could not be assimilated, twenty-four could not; and it seems the reverse of political, domestic, social, or any other economy, to devote £21 in one item of dietary alone to a patient who must have been in such a hopeless condition.

ON the entrance of the Emperor and Empress of Russia into Moscow for their coronation, it is chronicled that the English Nurse of the infant daughter of the Czarina was dressed entirely in white, and formed a pleasing contrast to the Russian wet Nurse, who was attired in the gaudy pink and silver national dress of women who serve in that capacity.

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