

phical knowledge that this island used to be called Van Diemen's Land—a name which was abolished when criminals were no longer transported here.

Tasmania is the healthiest of the Australasian group, partly because the hot winds of Australia do not reach us. But in spite of favourable climatic conditions, and no very great heat or very great cold, we manage to get a very fair proportion of sick people into our Hospital—the Hobart General, which was established over fifty years ago. The Hospital is divided up into two large sections, the Women's Hospital and the male side. The Women's Hospital is comparatively new, having been built only twelve years ago, and so having a good many modern fittings and furnishings. The wards are very bright, cheery and sunny, with ample air and light space, but I suppose by comparison with some of your lovely English Hospitals ours would seem very moderate.

But I think we do some excellent Nursing work, though in some things, no doubt, we should not seem quite up-to-date judged by your standard. Nursing progress does not go so quickly with us as with you, but I think the spirit of change and a desire of reform is coming over us, and each year sees innovations that would not have been thought of five years ago. Some of this change has been introduced by Nurses and Superintendents who have come out from England and have impressed us with their views and system. The Nursing staff consists only of twenty-one, under the direction of Miss K. F. Munn, whose work is very much appreciated by the public and the Nurses and medicos connected with the Institution. The uniform is rather pretty, striped cotton and a kind of "mob cap," and while our hair is just a little "fluffier" than we understand is allowed in England, we do not wear real fringes.

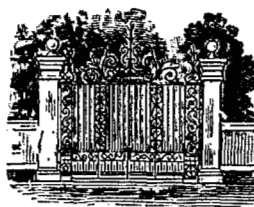
We are able to keep our wards charmingly decorated with the lovely flowers for which our island is famous, and all through the winter (though our "winter" lasts only three months) the wards are full of palms and ferns, and the semi-tropical plants which make Tasmania so picturesque. In corridors off the wards we have seats and large windows full of flowering shrubs and plants, and here the patients can amuse themselves, and bask in a real sun bath, when it is not too hot. The wards are very plain, with few pictures or decorations to take up dust, but they are very light, and bright and "flowery"—this latter being an all-sufficient decoration. Perhaps it may be interesting to know that this Hospital is not entirely dependent on voluntary contributions; it is subsidised by the Government to a large extent, although this sum is supplemented and added to by donations and subscriptions from the public. In addition to a capacity of 300 beds, we have a very large number of out-patients, and every care is taken that the charity is not imposed upon.

As an evidence of how little the English know of their sisters in the colonies, I receive such curious questions from friends in England. One who is training in the London Hospital wrote to me the other day, and asked how I liked working among "the natives." I suppose she conjured up visions of me nursing black savages! Whereas I believe the very last aborigine died more than ten years ago, so that we have no picturesque natives to watch and study; although, of course, we have many foreigners in the sense of people who were not born here.

Sincerely yours,
AUSTRALASIA.

Outside the Gates.

AMERICAN WOMEN.



M. DUGARD has written a book about America. From the Frenchman's point of view, the emancipation of woman, as shown in the United States, is an evidence of modern degeneracy! His "breath is taken away." "Voilà!" he says, "the American

women become druggists, doctors, architects, prison warders, professors of mathematics, philosophy, and history."

Out of 17,000 civil servants in Washington more than 6,000 are women, but M. Dugard notes that these only receive two-thirds of the man's salary for precisely the same work, and quotes the reason for this alleged by a Senator:—"If we gave them the same salaries they would soon be thrust out of all our offices, for the places are so besieged by electors that it is only by pleading economy that we can keep a certain number of women employed."

He notes with horror that American women refuse to acknowledge masculine superiority, and he declares that the young women, with their freedom from chaperonage, their men friends, and their views on equality in marriage, are distinctly unwomanly. But then, perhaps, M. Dugard finds the difficulty which many men experience of differentiating between the woman and the squaw.

Americans are apt in adopting French fancies in dress and diet, and "frog's legs" as a table delicacy appears to find favour with some. Miss Mona Seldon, of the town of Friendship, New Jersey, has attracted public attention by making a lucrative business of "frog raising." Miss Seldon was a school teacher for many years, but failure of her sight forced her to resign her position, and with an invalid mother to support, and nothing saved, her prospects looked hopeless. A friend, however, who had a "strong weakness" for frogs' legs, thought he saw millions in the business. He not only gave his advice, but the use of a swampy farm which he owned. Miss Seldon, thus equipped, began the systematic cultivation of frogs, and her past year's work produced a net revenue of £320. She has now a steady income, from twenty acres of "froggy swamp," of £500 per annum.

A woman in Chicago makes a very good living by teaching whist. The Americans like to know a little of everything, and if whist is the rage of the hour, whist they will and must learn. She has had plenty of opportunity while teaching the game to study the characteristics of her pupils, and she says it would be impossible to say whether men or women make the brightest players. She has had as many clever feminine pupils as of masculine ones. She also insists that, in spite of all the arguments to the contrary,

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