

foreground is discovered a "modern Hypatia," with scroll and compass; opposite to her a cunning little owl, in cap and gown, is perched on an open book, and, away back, rays of light shine on the Pyramids and Sphinx, and through the pillars of the Acropolis.

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SOME interesting letters are appearing in the *Manchester Courier* from a nurse in India, who has the faculty of sight. We all know the story of "Eyes and No Eyes," and it is marvellous how "No Eyes" goes round the world and sees nothing. In one of these letters we are told a story which proves the value of faith. The writer says: "I heard a curious snake story, or rather legend, from the night assistant. He says if a man has been bitten by a cobra, the people procure the services of a snake charmer, who calls all the cobras near, and they come and sit round the bitten man, who lies on the ground. They raise their heads, which they wave backwards and forwards, and all deny having bitten him, until the question is put to the culprit, by the charmer, of course. The snake is then compelled to go and lick the wound, when the poison is supposed to be returned to the snake, who then bathes in a pail of milk placed in readiness. The milk immediately turns black, and the snake is then given a pot of fresh milk, which it drinks. The curious thing about it is, says the assistant, that the man usually recovers, though the bite has been inflicted several hours before."

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A SIGNIFICANT incident occurred at the late meeting of the Nurses Associated Alumnae of the United States and Canada in New York. A resolution was passed offering the services of the members of the organisation to the Medical Department of the Army in connection with the war with Spain. The question of neutrality arose with the Canadian delegates, but they were as enthusiastic as their American colleagues, and voted with them. So we see the first fruits of the national co-operation of Canadian and American nurses. The nurses of the Dominion, who are British subjects, threw in their lot with America as against Spain, although the Government of their country has to maintain a strictly neutral attitude.

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PERIODICALLY we hear of nurses being called to account by hospital authorities for smoking cigarettes. Might not the scandal and friction resulting from the objection of the majority of Matrons to this habit be prevented, if Probationers were informed that such a practice was against the rules of the institution?

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THE recollections of the few survivors of the army nurses who served in the American Civil

War are now being eagerly listened to, and the intense realization of these women of the excitement and distress which are inseparable from warfare makes their enthusiasm and anxiety an interesting study. The town of Worcester supplied a considerable contingent of nurses, while Miss Clara Barton, with whose name most nurses are now familiar, came from the neighbouring town of Oxford.

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MISS ADELIZA PERRY, for many months, nursed in the Ocean View Hotel at Norfolk, which was converted into a temporary hospital. In the same place she relates two churches were also used as hospitals, the cots being spread over the tops of the pews. Many of the wounded were, Miss Perry says, mere boys. Many also left behind wives and children, and often the last words of the dying men for those dear to them were entrusted to her. "Come quick," said a man one day, "and take down what I say." Miss Perry wrote hastily his wishes as regards his property, and a last message to his wife. Before she had written the last word the man was dead.

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MRS. WOODBURY C. SMITH had perhaps as unique an experience as any of the nurses during the war. She was only twenty-three when she began work as a nurse, after dodging Miss Dix, who laid down strict rules that no woman who was under twenty-five, or good looking, should be accepted in this capacity. The latter condition, Mrs. Woodbury says naively, did not affect her, but the age limit did. After serving for some time at Fort Schuyler Mrs. Smith was transferred to the Hospital at Hilton Head, South Carolina, and afterwards worked on one of the transportation steamers where she was the only woman amongst many hundreds of men. At the Hospital at Hilton Head, where she was Matron, there were 2,500 beds, and these were for the most part kept full; during part of the time yellow fever raged, and many deaths occurred daily. Mrs. Smith was also stationed at Charleston and Savannah, at the latter place just after the raising the siege. The time must have been one of special strain, for, in addition to the horrors with which she personally came in contact, she was consumed with anxiety with regard to her husband and brothers, all of whom had enlisted. One of her brothers was killed before Richmond.

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THERE seems to be a strong feeling amongst these veteran nurses as to the horrors which are likely to befall soldiers who have the misfortune to be taken prisoners by Spain. From a nation that loves bull fights, and has so ill-treated Cuba, they may, says one of these women, expect the worst possible horrors.

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