

country as soon as possible. Had my patient really been very ill it would have been distinctly bad for her to have had constantly to act as interpreter for me, but as she only got steadily better it was an amusement to her to correct my many blunders, and she kindly gave me much help with the pronunciation, which is really not very difficult when the fundamental rules are once thoroughly comprehended.

One day, when I had for the first time got my convalescent moved on to the sofa, I received a summons to the telephone. It was a surprise to me to find the telephone in full working order, in a country where there are no railways and no gas; but it is a most useful institution in Las Palmas. All the English hotels, and most of the private business houses are thereby connected. My services were required *at once* at the Seaman's Hospital in the Port. The unceremoniousness of leaving a case at a moment's notice and without the doctor's knowledge or permission rather took my breath away, until I had consulted my patient and found her only anxious for me to go where my help was most needed, provided that I would promise to return to her if necessary. So I communicated with her doctor, got his permission, had packed up, and was ready in an hour's time for a fresh start.

The Secretary of the Hospital came for me in a "tartana" (a kind of wooden wagonette on two wheels with an awning over it as a protection from the sun, and curtains which could be drawn all round to exclude wind, dust, or rain). On the way he told me that the hospital was so full that I should not be able to sleep there, so we called at my hotel to leave my box, and arrange for my former room to be in readiness for me to sleep in the next day; and then we rattled away down to the Port. A tartana is almost as awkward a conveyance to sit still in as an Irish jaunting car. The springs, if there be any, are very poor ones; the seats are narrow and high; the driver smokes as he drives, and apparently pays much more attention to the former occupation than to the latter, for he lets his horse go backwards and forwards over the tram lines and in and out of the ruts much as he feels inclined—only at times, if the poor beast stumbles or slackens his speed, flogging him unmercifully, generally with the handle end of his whip.

Like some other foreigners Spainards are very cruel to dumb animals. Largely through English influence, a branch of the S. P. C. A. has been established in Las Palmas, which is doing something towards remedying the evil, but still more good has been done by the English men and women themselves, many of whom now will not engage a carriage until they have lifted the harness and are satisfied that the horses are free from sores, and in a fit condition for use.

The Port road is to me the most disagreeable feature of the Canary Islands; it stretches for about three miles almost in a straight line from the centre of the town to the Isleta, right along the seashore, and it might be made into a beautiful promenade and riding and driving ground. At present a steam tram runs along it, and it carries a great deal of commercial traffic; in dry weather the dust rises in thick clouds; the prevailing wind (N.W.) brings with it the fine sand from the isthmus (Sahara sand brought over in the air from the great desert), and after rain the mud is literally inches deep, and smells most disagreeably. During the next fortnight it was my lot to pass along this road twice daily, during worse weather than I have since known in Canary.

The Medical, Surgical, and Hygienic Exhibition.

THE Medical, Surgical, and Hygienic Exhibition was opened on Tuesday last at the Queen's Hall, Langham Place, and closes to-day. Visitors to it found much to interest them, indeed an annual visit to this exhibition will, we predict, become an established institution with all who desire to keep up-to-date in their acquaintance with modern appliances and inventions.

CAMWAL TABLE WATERS.

In the entrance hall are found the Camwal Table Waters. Camwal is interpreted when written at full length: "Chemists' Aërated Mineral Waters Association, Limited." The Chemists, desiring to supply their customers with first-rate articles, and not always being able to obtain these to their mind, united to form an association of their own, by which they should be supplied with goods of exceptional quality. If all their aërated waters come up in excellence to the ginger beer which was "on draught" at the Exhibition, there is no doubt that the Association has, to a great extent, achieved its object.

Passing into the main part of the Exhibition, we find many exhibitors with whom the readers of THE RECORD are now well acquainted. Amongst these may be mentioned the

CONTRA CYCLE SADDLE COMPANY.

This is our old friend the Instra warmer, which has "broken out in a new place." The Contra Cycle Saddle, which may be obtained from the Company of that name, established at 47, Cannon Street, E.C., is entirely different from any saddle yet made, and looks as if it should be *most* comfortable. It consists of straps stretched over semi-circular ends, between each strap there is a space, which enables a perfect grip to be obtained. There is no tendency to jerk off, as is the case with some saddles, and there is no injurious vibration when riding over rough roads. The price of the saddle is 25s., and it can be had for a week on trial. From a casual observance of it, it would seem that the difficulty of obtaining a really comfortable and satisfactory saddle is now at an end.

STACY'S NURSES' BAG.

Another exhibit, which will, no doubt, meet a want, is the Nurses' Bag, shown by Messrs. Stacy, of 4, Newgate Street, E.C. It is made in three qualities, costing 9s., 14s., and 20s. respectively, but the strong point of the bag is that it is lined with washable check waterproof. The excellently arranged stand for bottles and instruments costs 19s. 9d., and other fittings may be obtained as desired. The bag is used by the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Nurses, and each item in its arrangement has been submitted to Miss Peter, the Inspector of the Queen's nurses, for her approval.

SPARKLETS.

Nurses in search of a means to revivifying champagne which has become flat, and to aërate liquids of all kinds, will do well to inspect "sparklets." They may be obtained from Aëratators, Limited, of Broad Street Avenue, E.C. The necessary bottles and stoppers cost 3s. each, while the "sparklets," in boxes of a dozen, cost 1s. 6d. per box. By an ingenious arrangement, a pin in the stopper of the bottle pierces the sparklet, and the carbonic acid gas is set free. The process of aëration is accomplished in about five minutes. (To be continued.)

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)