

"The quarrel was carried on in a most unseemly manner, by letters in the public papers, by pamphlets both signed and unsigned, and by all the other arts of popular agitation; with which, however, Brodie had nothing to do, and which, damaging as they were to the prosperity and reputation of the Hospital, cannot, in fairness be laid at his door."

In 1834 honours again fell to Brodie's share, and he received a baronetcy. This was a well merited reward, for he "combined, in an unusual degree, success in practice with eminence in science." He was also made Sergeant Surgeon to the King, so that his eminence in his profession was widely recognized and rewarded. This latter position carried with it an ex-officio seat on the examining body of the College of Surgeons, and that body "owes its present position of influence and dignity mainly to the reforms which Brodie initiated, or rather, single handed, effected."

The duties of his office as examiner were performed in the careful way in which all his duties were undertaken. He was dissatisfied with the method of examining them in vogue, and with the qualifications of the candidates. He therefore took the trouble to analyse sixty-four of the written papers, and a memorandum on these exists by him headed sarcastically "Educational Statistics of one of the Learned Professions." It showed that only "forty out of the sixty-four candidates could spell properly, and that, out of fifty six who were required to translate English prescriptions into Latin, only twenty did so without false concords, wrong spelling, or ungrammatical construction." Brodie insisted upon the necessity for a liberal general education, saw that "the ordinary examination for diplomas must necessarily be of quite a different character from scholastic or competitive examinations," and that all that these could guarantee would be that the candidate had laid such a foundation as would enable him to profit by the opportunities of experience, which might be presented to him afterwards. He saw the importance of a higher standard of examination for Members of the College of more advanced age, and for this purpose devised the order of Fellows, "to insure the introduction into the profession of a certain number of young men who may be qualified to maintain its scientific character, and will be fully equal to its higher duties as hospital surgeons, teachers and improvers of physiological, pathological, and surgical science afterwards." There was room for improvement according to the speech of Mr. Gunning, Master of the Court, on the termination of his year of office, in many of the arrangements of the College of Surgeons at that time. He said, "You have a theatre for your lectures, a room for a library, a committee room for your Court, a large room for the reception of your communities, together with the necessary accommodation for your clerk. Your theatre is without lectures, your library, without books, is converted into an office for your clerk, and your committee room is become his parlour, and it is not always even used in your common business, and when it is thus made use of, it is seldom in a fit and proper state."

Among other honours which fell to Sir Benjamin Brodie, were the medal, named after him, which was presented to him on his retirement from the surgeons'hip he held at St. George's Hospital, the Presidency of the General Medical Council, and of the Royal Society.

Our Foreign Letter.

(From New Zealand).

A PEEP INTO WONDERLAND.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."



DEAR MADAM,
—I started for my annual holiday last month, and decided to wend my way to the Hot Lake District. I visited Rotorua first, and spent a

few days there very pleasantly. I went one evening to an open air concert, given at the Government Sanatorium. The beautiful grounds were lighted by hundreds of Chinese lanterns. The effect was very good, and the Geysers seen with the coloured lights playing upon them looked lovely. There is a nice tennis lawn, and in one corner of it is a little steam hole—a sort of safety valve. The ground is only five feet deep; underneath is boiling water.

I told you last year about Whakarewarewa. I went there again, and was warmly welcomed by Sophia, the famous Maori guide. She shewed me her album, and pointed with special pride to a photograph of the Duchess of Buckingham, sent by her Grace, and also to a very beautiful portrait of the Princess of Wales.

I left by coach for Wairakie on a Saturday morning. It is a drive of fifty miles over the most bare and desolate country imaginable. We only stopped once to change horses and obtain refreshment. It was a great relief to get to the end of the journey. The hotel is built in the quaintest way. A number of little detached buildings joined only by avenues of fir trees. Some of the cottages are built of bamboo and mud, and are very comfortable.

The baths are perfectly lovely. You go down a winding path shaded by trees, and at the bottom is a red door; you enter and find yourself in a veritable fairyland. There are two baths, one hot and the other cold. The hot bath is about a hundred and fifty feet long, and is fed from a spring. All round is a palisade; ferns, and native shrubs grow to the water's edge in profusion, and huge willow trees throw a lovely shade across it. The water is an exquisite pale blue.

The first expedition was to the famous Geysers Valley. I went with a party of eleven, accompanied by a guide, who provided us all before we started with walking sticks.

We followed our leader in Chinese fashion, one behind the other, along a narrow path over the mountains, and at last reached the wonderful valley. I despair of ever being able to describe all we saw. Large and small Geysers, the "Champagne Pool" and "Fairy Well," a black geyser, and a very horrible-looking place named the "Dragon's Mouth." All along the valley we followed our guide, and when we came to a part named the "Devil's Toll-gate," we had to cross on a narrow plank, only six inches wide. Hot spray is thrown out at short intervals. We hurried across one by one, hoping to escape the "toll." One unfortunate was caught and received a drenching shower of hot spray. He had sufficient presence of mind to go straight on; had he hesitated and slipped,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)