

A sum of £13,000 is a very gratifying result of the hospital collections in Liverpool, it is the largest return yet recorded, and yet not due to any exceptional circumstances. For the first time the Saturday receipts exceed those of the Sunday, and this proves that the organisation of the Saturday movement has been improved with experience. The committee were enabled to make grants aggregating £12,000 among 18 charities, thus helping them all very materially, and probably saving the majority from grave embarrassment.

There is a distressing sequel to the death from plague of the Vienna hospital attendant, Barisch. After the death of Barisch his clothing, by an inapprehensible blunder, was sent to his parents, who reside in the village of Laa. These people are now undergoing a rigorous quarantine, and are to be prosecuted, the father for opposing precautionary measures of disinfection, and the mother for having made a false declaration on the subject of her son's clothing. When the couple leave the hospital it will be to enter the departmental prison.

Dr. Lueger, Burgomaster of Vienna, has issued a statement with a view to allaying any anxiety that may be felt after the recent cases of bubonic plague in that city. Dr. Lueger assures the public that, as a consequence of the vigorous measures taken by the authorities and their medical advisers, there is no danger of any spread of the disease and no occasion for the slightest uneasiness.

More Europeans have been attacked by plague in India: Mrs. Slight, wife of an Indian civilian at present a magistrate at Bangalore, has been attacked also Lieut. Bedford, of the 26th Madras Infantry. The latter died at Belgaum.

We have received a copy of the petition presented to the Viceroy of India by the inhabitants of Bombay, in public meeting assembled, against the foundation of the proposed "Indian Princes' Victoria Health Institute," on the lines of a Pasteur Institute. The petitioners state that "it would be a shock to their deeply cherished feelings to transplant the horrors of vivisection or a Pasteur Institute to this ancient land, where six centuries before Christ, Gautam, the Enlightened, practised the holy gospel of "motherly kindness to all sentient beings, small or large, seen or unseen." The East, while willing to learn all that is good and pure in the West, must refuse to lower her own sublime ideals for utterly selfish and doubtful purposes at the call of empirical scientists, or vivisectors, and to endow a system of state-licensed torture out of the very taxes paid by a poor, but an essentially tender-hearted and gentle population." We must say, that taking into consideration the strong feeling of a large majority of the people of India on this subject, a feeling inspired by their religious beliefs, beliefs so strong that they caused murder and riotings in the course of the enforcement of the regulations laid down for the control of the plague epidemic, that in our opinion, it would be better that measures for the cure of disease, which cannot be said to have passed the region of experiment, should be tried in other countries, rather than forced upon an unwilling and conservative Eastern people.

Nursing in the Soudan.

We are glad to observe that Lord Kitchener has repudiated responsibility for the slaughter of wounded dervishes after the battle of Omdurman, and has stated that "no companies, either of English, Egyptian, or Soudanese battalions, were detached from the main bodies for any purpose whatever." That such slaughter did take place, after the evidence of an eye-witness, must, we think, be admitted, but at least is a matter of thankfulness that British Arms are not smirched by the act being an official one. It is not denied that wounded Arabs were left to die on the battlefield in thousands. It indeed could scarcely be otherwise seeing that the English and Egyptian surgeons were fully engaged in attending to their own wounded, and from the accounts which are now coming to hand there seems to have been room for considerable improvement in the arrangements made for the care of our own sick and wounded soldiers.

Lord Kitchener states that there are between six and seven thousand wounded Dervishes at present under treatment in the military hospital at Omdurman. The question at once presents itself, how are they being cared for? So far as nursing goes we know that the British Red Cross Society has not undertaken this duty—our Army Nursing Sisters have not been permitted to give even our own troops the benefit of the skilled nursing care which the nation presumably maintains the Army Nursing Service in order to provide. It is not superfluous, therefore, to enquire who is nursing them? We assert, without fear of contradiction, that hospitals containing thousands of wounded men cannot be efficiently nursed without trained nurses, and that the Royal Army Medical Corps is as out of place in performing nursing duties as nurses would be who undertook the work of the Army Medical Corps.

We reprint from the *British Medical Journal*, of November the 5th, the following paragraph concerning the Khartoum Expedition and an account which the same journal publishes from a lay eye-witness on November 12th. We must remind our readers that the *NURSING RECORD* has, from the beginning of the campaign, been the only professional journal which has held, and publicly stated, that the basis upon which the medical arrangements in the Soudan campaign were made was fundamentally wrong, because no organisation for the care of the sick and wounded, which did not include trained nurses could, by any possibility, be adequate for this purpose.

THE KHARTOUM EXPEDITION.

"Upon the return to Cairo of the Nile Expeditionary Force, the following address was delivered by Sir Francis Grenfell, the General Officer Commanding Her Majesty's Forces in Egypt, at a general parade on October 8th.: "Colonel Barrow, officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Royal Army Medical Corps,—I am glad of this opportunity of telling you of my high appreciation of the valuable services rendered by your corps during the late operations on the Nile. I regret that Surgeon-General Taylor and Colonel McNamara are not present that I could personally thank them for their valuable co-operation. I have lately visited the hospitals at Atbara, and Abadia, and was much pleased and greatly struck with

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)