

the meeting, for though my present work takes me far away from the centres of nursing, I shall still hope to keep up with its progress.

At present my energies will all be required for my work of organization here; we are already starting a model hospital, where we hope to organise a training school for nurses, but the success of this latter is doubtful as yet, as Puerto Principi is fully 100 years behind the times, and it is considered almost a disgrace to allow a nice girl to earn her own living, or go from her home except to enter a convent.

We are also starting our Industrial School for the destitute children of whom there are a great number in the city.

Of course we are very much isolated as there is no railroad from here except for 50 miles from the coast, where we can take steamer to Havannah or New York, we have a mail once a week and everything here is on the most primitive style—in spite of all I am enjoying my work very much, and only hope that my health will permit me to remain, so far I am quite well and not affected by the hot weather.

FROM THE UNITED STATES.

“DEAR MADAM,—What perfectly gorgeous experiences your fashionable amateur nurses are having in South Africa! There is no doubt they are enjoying *the* time of their lives! Their artless prattle shows it plainly, and your own comments upon their various doings afford us, in our Western wilds, the purest joy. Where may we poor nurses hide our ignominious heads from the light turned upon us by the critical Society woman? Last year, at a meeting of club women, it was seriously agreed that the modern nurse was too good-looking, and that this was a reprehensible peculiarity, and made the husbands too ready to entertain the nurse at her meals. But now we poor things are finished off with the dictum that we are too homely and miserable-looking to have been able to find any man who would rescue us from perpetual “companionship with our own sex.”

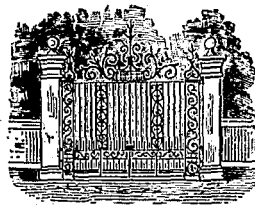
Utterly preposterous that these plain beings should yet require food, exercise, and rest at stated periods, especially when they are only working hard about eighteen hours in the day. It is also an interesting discovery of the lay mind that a relative immunity from vulgar complaints like dysentery may be bestowed by the “motives” with which one takes up nursing. But may we in hushed tones inquire, why do these ladies imitate us so? Are we really so unattractive? Why do they wear our caps and aprons and try to look like us? And why is it only our army work that they seem to envy, so that they push, and elbow, and crowd their way to where, in seriousness and gravity, we are busy with heartrending tasks of life and death. Is there yet hidden, in their sensation-loving hearts, some yearning to work and suffer for humanity? I doubt it, for if so, your brave soldiers would not be simply “those persons,” and beside, as you have well pointed out, there are at home in the poor-houses and infirmaries plenty of sick, pathetic souls upon whom their kindness might be lavished. So far, I have not observed that any of them have responded ardently to that suggestion.

As an interested spectator, speaking of humbugs, how we did shriek at your picture of good, kind, Sir Henry Burdett, at the age of eleven, establishing training in hospital work in conjunction with Mrs. Wardroper!

“STARS AND STRIPES.”

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



The Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women (N.U.W.W.), Will this year be held at Brighton on Thursday, October 26th, and arrangements for an unusually interesting Conference are being made by the local branch. The Dome has

been engaged for the larger meetings, and rooms which will hold some 450 and 200 persons respectively will be used for sectional meetings which the growth of the Union has rendered necessary. Brighton is at its best in the autumn and as it is so near to London, a very large gathering is expected.

The subject to be discussed which will be of most interest to nurses will be that of “The Work of Women on Hospital and other Boards,” to be brought forward in the Public Work Section by Miss Louisa Stevenson, a member of the Board of Management of the Royal Infirmary at Edinburgh, and Miss Georgiana Hill, London. The discussion will be opened by Miss Bannatyne, Women’s University Settlement, and Mrs. W. J. Evans, Hon. Sec. Leicester Branch of the N.U.W.W. It is to be hoped that some experienced matrons will be present to give the meeting the benefit of their point of view.

It will be remembered that this very subject was discussed at the Matrons’ Council Conference last year, in a paper by Miss Lucy Walker, Superintendent of the Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia. The unanimous opinion of those present was, we gathered, only in favour of women acting on public Boards in the same capacity as men, not as a member of a woman’s committee deputed to act more or less as an inspector of nursing and domestic details, and usually without any qualifications for forming expert opinion.

Miss Louisa Stevenson occupies the dignified position of a full member of the Edinburgh Infirmary Board, the interests therefore of every department are in part her care, and she works as a Governor and not as a species of detective. This is the only position women should accept.

The following memorial has been sent by the National Union of Women Workers to Mr. Balfour, with regard to the London Borough Councils.

**THE RESPECTFUL MEMORIAL OF THE UNDERSIGNED
*Sheweth***

That the London Borough Councils will be the Sanitary Authorities for their respective areas, and that their duties will include:

(a) The supervision of premises to which men cannot suitably be sent;

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