

condemned to wear a dress which for ourselves is suitable, and, indeed, becoming, but which, for other nationalities, is in many instances totally incongruous and unsuitable.

THE object of extending civilization is, we take it, not to de-nationalize other nations, but to teach them habits and methods which we have found to be good, and which may well be engrafted and absorbed into their own national life. To share our knowledge thus with others is beneficent and good, but to set before them our own standard as the only one, to teach them in effect that their ways are good only when they conform to it, and otherwise of no account, and in need of reformation, is to miss the whole meaning of cultivation, and to do our neighbours a grievous wrong. Our whole aim should be to strive to retain all that is good in their national life and to graft on to it, not to substitute for it, those things in which we believe they may learn from us.

WHY, then, should the Japanese nurse be condemned to wear a costume which manifestly is unbecoming to her, and which is a constant reminder to her patients that skilled nursing is an exotic rather than a natural product? Let her wear uniform by all means, but let the uniform be one in conformity with the fashion of her own country, modified, if need be, to suit the requirements of her profession. She will then come to her countrymen not as one who has adopted strange Western ways, but as one of themselves, and her services will be much more readily received and believed in.

After all, what is this insistence upon Europeanism over other nations but intolerable pride and self-complacency? When we go to other countries, do we adopt their ways? Not at all. We try as much as may be possible to make our surroundings like "home" and cling to everything English. Englishmen do not wear turbans when they go to India, nor do Englishwomen adopt the graceful and sensible dress of Indian women. Why should they? It is not suited to them. Why, then, should we expect the people of other nations, be they Indian, African, Chinese, or Japanese, to adopt our fashions, which, on ourselves, are often none too becoming, and on Eastern races are frankly hideous.

"It strikes a new-comer to Chinese hospitals as a curious fact that so many patients are found to be wearing false pigtails. Nearly all the secret and anarchical societies insist on their disciples shearing off the queue.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



IN response to the request of the committee of the new Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, the Prince and Princess of Wales have consented to lay the foundation stone early in the ensuing year. The hospital will be non-sectarian, and is being erected to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.

The education and research fund of Guy's Hospital Medical School has received from "A Friend of the Hospital" the sum of £5,000, the interest of which is to be used to "increase and spread the knowledge of the means of preventing and treating disease."

Five additional cases of plague were reported at Glasgow on Monday. A family, consisting of the mother, a grown-up daughter, a boy, and a girl, were removed to hospital, also the wife of a hospital worker. The family proved to have been in contact with plague cases since August 22nd, and have been ill since, unknown to the authorities. A death is reported.

An epidemic of diphtheria in Leicester is causing greater mortality than the plague in Glasgow, and the zymotic disease rate in the former place has been higher than that of any other of the thirty-three great towns in England and Wales:

The *British Medical Journal*, in a recent issue, congratulated the Poor Law Guardians of Cookstown and Dr. Bell on the appointment of Miss Crawford as Dr. Bell's *locum tenens* during his absence. Dr. Arthur Wigglesworth, of Liverpool, writing to the current issue of our contemporary, says that he would be very sorry to think that these congratulations were endorsed by the profession at large. Apart altogether from "the very open question whether the introduction of the feminine element into the ranks of the profession is necessary, wise, or politic," he thinks that not to allow the poor the option of being treated by a male practitioner is "a moral wrong of no mean order," "an outrage on the first principles of morality." We must point out to Dr. Wigglesworth that to be logical he should contend that in every case the poor should have the option of consulting a woman practitioner, or does he wish us to understand that the "innate feelings of true modesty" are blunter in women than in men? The right attitude in which to approach the question is, we believe, that the sex question does not come in, in relation either to a medical attendant or a nurse, but that anything for the relief of the patient may be performed by one of either sex. How otherwise do women tolerate the attendance of male practitioners? With regard to the introduction of the feminine element into the medical profession, Dr. Wigglesworth must, indeed, be behind the times if he considers that this is still an "open question." Women have long since won, and unquestionably maintained, their right to a place in it.

The Local Government Board has sanctioned the appointment of Dr. Eva McCall as resident assistant medical officer at the Salford Union Infirmary.

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