

Post, from a correspondent who is of opinion that our contemporary, "usually so well informed on nursing matters," has given quite a wrong impression as to the professional training received by the male nurses serving on the *Maine*, stating that she has never met a highly trained male nurse in America, that everywhere throughout the United States the male nurse is being abolished, having been tried and found wanting, and that the "species is not to be found in any American training school, save those whose methods belong to the dark ages of hospital tradition."

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It appears to us wanting in gratitude and good taste to attack a body of men whose services were freely given to this country when its need was great, and several of whom, to our knowledge, gave up remunerative posts to serve the sick British soldier. The letter also is based on an imperfect knowledge of facts, and as the writer asks for the name of "any leading hospital in America where the male nurse is in vogue," we may mention that the whole of the nursing of the male wards in connection with the Bellevue Hospital, New York, is done by the men of the Mills' Training School, who, under the able superintendence of Mrs. Willard, attain to a very high degree of efficiency. The Bellevue Hospital is the mother of training schools in the United States. A graduate American nurse recently stated that the men of the Mills' Training School during the Spanish-American War, were equal to the women in efficiency and superior in evenness of temper.

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AN extraordinary case of religious mania is reported from Paris. The members of the Hypnotic Congress, which was recently held there, paid a visit by special invitation to the Salpetriere, the hospital for nervous diseases, made famous by the investigations carried out by Dr. Charcot. There is one most extraordinary case among the patients at present in the hospital. The patient is a woman of about 40, suffering from religious mania. She entertains the belief that she is crucified, and this delusion has occasioned a contraction of the muscles of the feet of such a nature that she can only walk on tip-toe. By recourse to suggestion the muscular contraction can be temporarily cured and for a few hours she recovers the normal use of her feet.

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THE patient, however, is subject occasionally to still more extraordinary manifestations. Instances are tolerably frequent in the "Lives of the Saints" of alleged cases of stigmata or supernatural marks on the body in imitation of the wounds of Christ. These stigmata have been

observed beyond all question on the woman at the Salpetriere. Their appearance on her body coincides with the return of the most solemn religious anniversaries. The stigmata are so visible that it has been possible to photograph them. The doctors of the Salpetriere, in order to assure themselves that these manifestations were not the result of trickery, contrived a sort of shade having a glass front and metal sides, and capable of being hermetically attached to the body by means of India rubber fixings. These shades were placed in position a considerable time before the dates at which the stigmata are wont to appear. When they were affixed there were no marks whatever on the patient's body, but at the expected period the stigmata were visible as usual through the glass.

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NURSES must always be keenly interested in any new remedy which gives relief from pain, and they will, therefore, take cognizance of a discovery, on the part of a Chicago surgeon, by which it is claimed that complete anæsthesia can be produced without the loss of consciousness by the patient. The remedy is the injection of cocaine into the spinal canal, and it is stated that its efficacy has been tested at Cork County Hospital, where an amputation of the right leg was successfully performed on a conscious patient, without pain, and, indeed, without his feeling the knife. A serious operation was also performed on a woman with an equally successful result.

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IT is obvious, however, that the record of two successful cases is not a sufficient one to establish the value of a new treatment or remedy, and for the present, therefore, the efficacy of the one described above must be received with much reservation. In connection with it a correspondent brings to our notice a case which was well known in a tropical town in which she lived. A medical man who entered a hospital suffering from malarial fever insisted on a hypodermic dose of morphia which was ordered for him being injected into the spinal canal. Within a few days he developed tetanus, of which he died.

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VARIOUS theories were evolved as to the origin of the tetanus. It might possibly—always supposing that there is such a thing as idiopathic tetanus—have been a case of this nature. The possibility of a dirty syringe was also discussed, but the general medical opinion seemed to be that the disease was caused by the puncture of the spinal canal. The case is interesting at the present time as evidence that the practice is not unattended with risks, and should not be hastily adopted.

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