

We are delighted to hear that the session at the Nurses' Congress at Buffalo, which is to be devoted to Army and Naval Nursing, and Red Cross Work, is likely to be a great success. The Spanish-American War Nurses are prepared to attend in force, and the chance of meeting Dr. Arnita McGee—famous for her splendid army work in both hemispheres—Mrs. Dita Kinney, now in charge of the Army Nurse Corps of the United States, and other celebrities, will be an additional inducement for many to attend the Congress.

We hasten to correct an error which appeared in our recent sketch of the professional career of Miss Isabel McIsaac, the President of the International Nurses Congress. Miss McIsaac is not a graduate of Bellevue, but of the Illinois Training School for Nurses at Chicago, of which she is now the honoured Superintendent. Miss McIsaac has been attached to this flourishing school for fifteen years, as probationer, pupil, Assistant Superintendent, and Superintendent, and it is interesting in this connection to know that when Miss Isabel Hampton, now Mrs. Robb, took charge of the Illinois School in 1886, one of her first day's duties was to accept Miss McIsaac and her sister Euphemia, as pupil nurses.

Miss Euphemia McIsaac now holds the position of fourth assistant in her Alma Mater. The President of the forthcoming Congress informs us that "American nurses are looking forward with great interest and pleasure to meeting the English and other foreign nurses at Buffalo in September, and are very anxious that you may feel amply repaid for the long journey."

We are glad to hear that a regulation has been inserted into the rules for the private nurses sent out by the London Hospital, stating that they are not expected to take their meals with the domestic staff of the patient. This is a timely reform, as by placing trained nurses on a level with the servants, the performance of their responsible duties is made increasingly difficult. A London nurse said to us recently: "It is impossible to maintain any sort of position in a house where you are neither fish, flesh, fowl, nor good red-herring, at one hour the "intelligent companion" of the patient, the next the "professional assistant" of the man of science, and at stated intervals during the day "hail fellow well met" with the domestic servants. The position is intolerable, and should be made impossible by an unwritten law upon the part of all certificated trained nurses engaged in private nursing."

In this connection we also hear that a member of the "London" staff was considered "very selfish," because she objected to accept a case from a member of the committee when informed that the nurse sent would be expected to take her meals in the servant's hall. Why? Surely the Chairman of this institution should be the first to insist upon the governors keeping the rules.

At the annual general meeting of the Nottingham Children's Hospital, it was announced that the Empress Frederick, who it was originally hoped would open the forthcoming bazaar, had sent a donation of £30. A letter was also read from Lord Roberts, who wrote by the desire of the King, saying that the Empress Frederick had expressed a wish that he should open the bazaar, and that as he has a "terrible number of engagements in May and June," he would be glad if a very early date were not fixed for it.

Will our readers please remember that we have promised to help to furnish the Lady Superintendent's stall at this bazaar, which is to be held on November 7th, and the two following days, and which will be opened by Lord Roberts, relying on their kind co-operation. We shall be pleased to receive and acknowledge in the NURSING RECORD all contributions they are kind enough to send us. We hope these will be a goodly supply.

At a recent committee meeting of the new infirmary of the Barton Union, the desirability of providing chairs for the use of visitors and convalescent patients was discussed. Miss Rawson made a remark to the point when she observed that if chairs were not provided, the visitors would sit on the beds, and some of these were not so clean as they might be.

We well remembered in the days when we were Sister of a ward, the time we spent in dislodging, not only patient's friends, but medical students, who ensconced themselves comfortably on the patients' beds to the detriment of their symmetry, and of the spotlessness of the quilts. It would seem as if the need of chairs as part of ward furniture were so self evident as to need no discussion, but this is evidently not the case. We are glad that at Barton an amendment that the recommendation of the committee should be referred back was lost.

We are glad to see that the *British Medical Journal* is drawing the attention of guardians to the fact that, especially in the small rural unions they might do a good deal more than is done at

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)