

brothers and sisters, patient and friend, but never once has she found a patient suffer from this somewhat unusual privilege. Of course, tact is needful at times, but by using the prohibition of surgeon or doctor to enforce her own authority, the Superintendent can easily prevent relations from entering patients' rooms when likely to prove harmful to them. The day after major operations, for instance, patients are usually willing not to move or speak, and are quite content *not* to see even their dearest, so long as they know they are within reach; should it not be so, the fact of the Professor's forbidding their entrance is always sufficient.

From the financial stand-point the admission of friends or relations is also satisfactory to both Home and patients. They cause but little extra expense for service, being waited on by house and parlour maids, and they constantly enable the Superintendent to dispense with one or more nurses, since one nurse can attend to several patients when each has a relative to bear him company. For patients also the presence of a relative is but slight expense, as it enables them speedily to dispense with the special nurse and return to the *rofos.* pension per day.

On busy days, especially operation ones, relations have been the greatest help and comfort, enabling the Superintendent to put several nurses at the *disposition* of the surgeons, whilst one nurse only, with the relations, looked after the dinners of the other patients and kept them amused. But probably the fact of their comfort is especially due to the cosmopolitanism of the Home, enabling English patients to be nursed by Italians, and preventing Italian patients from feeling "out of it" when surrounded by too many English and Americans.

The other most satisfactory feature of the experiment has been the complete success of the Italian Hospital trained nurses. In no one case has Miss Turton been asked to change them. Once only has an anxious daughter, telegraphed for from England, desired the assistance of an English nurse for night work, fearing the exertion of speaking in French for her mother, but after two nights the patient insisted on returning to her original Italian nurse, saying, "she liked so much the way she sponged her, and her affectionate disposition." Italians are, in fact, exceedingly devoted, and grateful for the courtesy displayed by English patients. It is a strange fact that, with few exceptions, Italian patients forget to thank nurses, and seldom consider that they have need of rest or recreation. Probably the explanation lies in the generations of experience of nuns' and servants' devotion to the sick, patients developing an hereditary instinct prompting them to increase

the nuns' "merits" by exercising their patience, "*così acquisteranno di più nel Paradiso!*" Servant-nurses apparently also are to be benefited by acquiring patience, or else to be rewarded for its display by monetary recompense. Be it as it may, the Italian nurses are much impressed by the fact that English patients are almost invariably considerate and grateful to a degree that is rare amongst Italian ones.

The sum total of patients during the first season—November 1st, 1900, to June 15th, 1901—has not been large, thirty-two in all, of whom about half were English or American. These English-speaking patients were, with three exceptions, medical cases, and, with one exception (heart failure), have made most excellent recoveries, or greatly improved. English patients are free to be attended by any doctor of repute they may desire, whether of English or other nationality. The large majority have been patients of Dr. Coldstream, the best known English physician in Florence. The Italian patients have been, with one exception, surgical cases.

Operations are always performed by one of the two Florentine Clinical Professors, Professor Colzi, those of general surgery; Professor Pestalozza, those that are gynæcological. They in every case have been successful: laparotomies leaving the Home after twenty-one days, stitches having been removed the tenth day, and first steps taken the fifteenth or sixteenth day.

Taken as a whole, therefore, Miss Turton may be considered to have attained the aims she had in view. Patients have been provided with a Home and efficient nursing at the least possible expenditure (from £3 to £4 per week). And the quality of her Italian trained nurses has been appreciated by Italians and English alike, patients and doctors.

A well-merited Testimonial.

At the last meeting of the Stafford Guardians, Nurse Langabeer, in addition to a handsome testimonial from the Guardians, received a sum of money which had been forwarded to her for public presentation by the Royal Society for the Protection of Life from Fire, in recognition of her courageous conduct at the recent fire.

The Latest Victim.

The last victim of the experiments which have been conducted in Havana as to inoculating of persons with yellow fever by means of the bites of infected mosquitoes, is Miss Clara Maas, a trained nurse from Orange, New Jersey, who has died from the bite of an infected mosquito.

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