

week by Miss Speakman to the members of the Manchester Branch of the Catholic Truth Society. The meeting was held in the St. Bede's College. Miss Speakman gave some instructive details about the early hospitals, which were in reality religious institutions, conducted according to the rules of one or other of the great religious Orders. From the medical point of view the mediæval hospitals were not, of course, of high value. They provided nursing, food, rest, and religious consolation. Miss Speakman spoke of the beauty of the architecture of the early hospitals, which in many ways resembled churches, and said that it was probable that they gave more air-space to the patients than was the case in the hospitals of to-day. The hospitals placed little restriction on the number or character of the people received, and many hospitals regularly sent out scouts into the highways and byways to gather in the sick.

The gift by Mr. Carnegie of 600,000 dols. to the Tuskegee Institute, the famous coloured school of Alabama, has caused much enthusiasm in the Southern Education Conference at Richmond, where the work of Mr. Booker Washington, principal of Tuskegee, has been pointed to as showing the way to solve the race question. Mr. Carnegie, in his letter, says:—

"History is to tell of two Washingtons, one white, the other black, both fathers of their people."

WANTED for £5, USE of M.D.'s NAME for EXTRACT of MEAT and MALT WINE.

What's in a name? Not very much in this one. The opinion of the M.D. who is prepared to risk the terrors of the Medical Council for £5 is hardly worth the money.

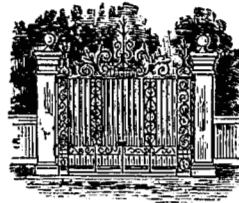
New Inventions.

AT MESSRS. W. H. BAILEY'S.

At Messrs. W. H. Bailey's, 38, Oxford Street, and 2, Rathbone Place, are to be seen the most fascinating requisites of up-to-date surgery. One of the latest additions to the stock of this enterprising firm is Bailey's special registered aseptic operating table, for gynæcological, abdominal, and general operations. As one views its perfections, one's mind harks back to the days when even warmth was first recognised as a valuable aid in the prevention of shock, and water beds, placed on the table, were laboriously filled with hot water. Now this has disappeared, and its successor is a charming table of white enamelled iron and nickel plated top. Under each of the two main sections which form the table is a small hot-water tank, so arranged as to follow the plate in any position required. Another point which must be noted is the channel which runs along the two plates and communicates with a trough under the centre of the table, through which any fluid used for irrigating purposes is drained away. The patient can be placed in Trendelenberg's position, by the raising of the table to the required angle by means of a ratchet. The price of this ideal table is £18 18s.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



The *Graphic* makes the statement that "Miss Florence Nightingale is almost forgotten by the public, and her name is not included in the list of those who have the Order of Merit! The women of Great Britain should compel the authorities to decide whether the Order is intended as a reward for male merit alone."

Surely the public will never forget the national services of Miss Nightingale; the sick and suffering are benefiting by them every hour of time. But when have the real national services of women been recognised in this country? The recipients chosen for the Order of the Royal Red Cross after the late South African war surely dispelled any illusion we might entertain that merit is a necessary antecedent to recognition for honour in England.

We have heard it said that it is an unwritten law here that all initiative—and in consequence all reward—must be accorded to patrician sources where we women are concerned; and, indeed, nothing can be more unhealthy in the condition of working women than that their very livelihood should depend upon the "patronage" of the leisured classes. No class has suffered more bitterly in this direction of late years than the modern trained nurse, with the result that she is rapidly deteriorating into an economic parasite.

The fact that Florence Nightingale has been overlooked in compiling the roll of an Order of Merit, whilst decadent royalties in every empire scintillate with stars and ribbons, shows us how very primitive are the ways of man, and how contemptible is unfranchised woman. The only means by which "the women of Great Britain can compel the authorities" is through the efficacy of the vote. Without it they rank with the animals, and far, far in the rear of the male murderer who has done "a lifer," the male lunatic granted his "recognisances," and the lazy pauper left a legacy. Personally, we are of opinion that a submerged sex can have very little "merit" to smilingly submit generation after generation to such indignity.

Mme. Adolphine Kok, the first woman admitted to the Dutch Bar, took oath before the legal tribunal last week, together with her husband.

The *Queen* says:—"It is perfectly impossible to be graceful under the influence of the short skirt. Under no circumstance, while you wear this latest idiosyncrasy of the queen of our dress destinies, will you look elegant. Of course, if you wish to cast elegance to the four winds of heaven and worship at the shrine of the convenient and the novel, then adopt the short skirt." The really elegant woman does not depend upon her skirt for grace, but upon her muscles. Moreover, common sense rebels against the fetish of fashion, and

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