

spot in the Thüringer Wald, which we are told is quite worth a visit.

A special attraction to Bart's nurses will be that at St. Mary's, Oberhof, which is 3,000 ft. above the sea-level, lady boarders are received by Fräulein Klettner and Miss Gladys M. Law, the former being a member of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. The express trains from Berlin stop at Oberhof, and the Continental expresses straight to England pass through Erfurt, which is within easy reach.

Several hundred persons assembled at Broad Street Station, Philadelphia, to wish Godspeed to Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee and eight nurses, who were leaving for Japan. Amongst them were members of the Order of Spanish-American War Nurses and of the Red Cross Society. Four Japanese students were also there, and one of them, Mr. F. Luzuki, made a speech in which he said: "We are proud to be in a country which has proved so friendly to Japan. The departure of these noble women arouses in us greater regard than ever for the Stars and Stripes." On their way to the station, Dr. McGee and the nurses were received at the City Hall by Mayor Weaver, who expressed his cordial good wishes for the success of their work.

One of the most interesting of the war pictures is the reproduction of a snapshot by Mr. Percival Phillips, the correspondent of the *Daily Express*, showing the Japanese Red Cross nurses marching through Tokyo on their way to the station to entrain for the front. When it is remembered that it is only within recent years that trained nursing has been introduced into Japan, the power of assimilation shown by the women of this wonderful nation, and their readiness to adopt Western methods and ideas, must be regarded as marvellous.

Miss Brewerton, the Matron of the English Hospital in Zanzibar, writing to the *St. John's House League News*, says:—

"I think that it may be of some interest to the League Nurses if I answer two questions that are often asked. The first is, 'Is it necessary to speak the language?' It certainly is very necessary to learn Swahili, the common language of the people, and happy is the missionary who is a linguist in Zanzibar, as there are people of almost every nationality living on the island, with whom we come in contact most days.

"The other question is, 'Is your maternity work of much use to you?' I think if I can explain one of my cases that it will answer both questions at once. During the seven months since my return from England I have been called upon to nurse maternity cases amongst Swahilis, Arabs, Indians, Greeks, Germans, and French, and very few of these could speak any English at all. My last case was one of the Sultan's wives. The Mohammedans are allowed four wives. This being the first baby, it caused a good deal

of excitement. I think that I am the first European woman who has ever had free access to the Palace. They were all very friendly, and have asked me to go and see them often. We hope it is a good sign that they should trust a Christian to go among them, and hope that it may lead to some of them wishing to be taught.

"The following may give a little idea of what district nursing is like out here and some of the difficulties that we meet with:—Early one morning I was called to a case. It was a Banyan lady; they were very rich and lived in one of the largest houses in town. Above the door, along the centre, was hung a row of what looked like withered leaves; they were to keep out evil spirits. On entering I found myself in a dark kind of office, with a number of young men, presumably clerks, sitting writing. They motioned me on, and I mounted a rough staircase, such as would lead to a stable-loft in England, but which brought me to a lobby, out of which opened two rooms. The one on the right was a sitting-room with sofa and chairs covered with white stuff, looking as if it were to be spring-cleaned, but which was evidently its everyday garb. The opposite room was the bedroom of the patient—a large, light room with white-washed walls and concrete floor; a table, several chairs, and a bed were the only furniture, except three mirrors, two of them immense things, fastened to the walls. On entering I found that the doctor was before me, and was trying in a hopeless sort of way to dust a chair with some cotton wool that he had brought. He said: 'I was trying to get the place ready for you.' Of course I soon turned him out, and said, 'Leave the cleaning of the room to me, Bwana.' I soon had the floor thoroughly washed, as you would a court-yard in England, by throwing down several pails of water and making the attendants sweep it away. Six richly-dressed ladies who were sitting about watching my proceedings put their toes on to their chairs to get out of the way of the wet. When all was clean and tidy the doctor was admitted.

"As soon as the baby was born, there was a great fuss with some bracelets which were tied to the bed. I was too busy to see exactly what the ceremony was. The Banyans have many strange customs. One is that every member of the family always eats alone. The old grandfather told me that 'he eats by himself, his son by himself, and the wife by herself,' and so on.

"The nurse that went on with the case for me after the first two days were over was one day immensely surprised by having a garment for which she stretched out her hands, and which had been fetched for her by one of the ladies of the house, thrown at her from a little distance. On seeing her astonishment they proceeded to explain that for fifteen days the mother was unclean, and everybody who had anything to do with her would contaminate anyone who touched her. Thus they shook hands with the doctor on his way upstairs, but carefully avoided all contact with him on his way out. Should anyone happen to go near him or the nurse they would have to go and have a bath at once. The nurse was so tickled at the idea of being unfit to touch that she went into fits of laughter, in which they all very good-humouredly joined. On the sixth day the baby was found to have a daub of henna on his face just between his eyes, and a mark like a Maltese cross on his little garment; also one on the floor. A tray-full

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