

had gone to the East for the purpose of spreading Puseyism amongst the British soldiers, others that she had become a Roman Catholic, some people were certain that she was a Unitarian, while others whispered the dreadful heresy 'Supralapsarian.' A clergyman warned his flock against subscribing money for the soldiers in the East if it was to pass through Popish hands. Controversy waxed strong in the *Times* and the *Standard*, and Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Herbert warmly defended their absent friend."

"An Irish clergyman, when asked to what sect Miss Nightingale belonged, made the effective reply: 'She belongs to a sect which, unfortunately, is a very rare one—the sect of the Good Samaritan.'"

For the many interesting details of Miss Nightingale's work in the Crimea the reader must be referred to the book itself.

It is significant of the complacency of officialdom that when the *Times* raised a fund for the relief of the wounded, and sent its commissioner to Scutari in charge of it, the officials at the Bosphorus laughed amiably over bringing "coals to Newcastle." The chief medical officers in the hospitals at Scutari told him "nothing was wanted," and "in a higher quarter still he was met with the astounding proposal that as the fund was wholly unneeded he might disembarass himself of it by building an episcopal church at Pera!" However, after the commissioner had offered his money bags to Miss Nightingale there was no more talk of building churches.

Another ally of Miss Nightingale's was M. Soyer, the French expert, who proceeded to Scutari at his own expense and gave his valuable services in the culinary department.

In the spring of 1855 there was an increase of typhus fever in its worst form. Seven surgeons at the Barrack Hospital, Scutari, died of the disease, and the nurses were also attacked with illness. Miss E. A. Smythe died at Kullali from typhus, Sister Winifred at Balaclava from cholera, and shortly afterwards Sister Mary Elizabeth, of fever, at the same place. Later, Miss Nightingale herself, when on a visit of inspection to Balaclava, was seized with the worst form of Crimean fever, and for a time her life was despaired of. Happily, this calamity was averted.

On her return home Miss Nightingale was received at Balmoral by the late Queen, who personally thanked her for her work.

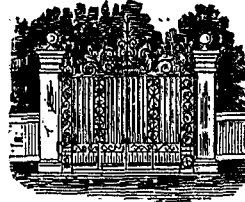
Most people are aware of the offering made to her by a grateful nation. How she utilised it for the training of nurses, and how, though her health has not permitted her to take an active part in nursing since that time, yet the work at St. Thomas's, in connection with the Nightingale Fund, the establishment of district nursing, the introduction of trained nurses into workhouse infirmaries, sanitation at home and in India, are subjects in which she has taken and still takes a keen interest.

Mrs. Tooley is to be warmly congratulated on having presented to the public, in so readable a form, a story which has needed telling, and which the jubilee of Miss Nightingale's departure for the Crimea has afforded a fitting opportunity for relating. M. B.

Miss Florence Nightingale is expressing her thanks through the Press for the congratulations which she has received in connection with the jubilee of her departure for the Crimea.

## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.



A Woman's Health Society has been formed in Lewisham with a view to lessening the evils arising from the improper feeding of infants and the general disregard of sanitary laws and hygiene. A committee of influential ladies has been formed, with the Mayoress as president and Mrs. A. W. Hiscox as hon. secretary.

At a recent conference of the Women's Total Abstinence Union, Miss H. S. Pollock, of Hanworth, read a valuable paper on "Work among Inebriates." Miss Pollock said:—"All agree as to the increase of drunkenness among women. As the need has increased, so homes have increased. The private homes have usually been reckoned most successful; but in the larger and more public homes which have been established in recent years every care has been taken to benefit by past experience. There are now fifty-one licensed and unlicensed homes for the treatment of inebriates. With some of these, twenty county and borough councils have made arrangements for their cases; while of fifty-four county boroughs and 228 municipal boroughs, thirty-one and ninety-three respectively have made similar arrangements, and others have the matter under consideration. These figures do not include the counties of Yorkshire and Lancashire, both of which are building large reformatories for themselves; nor the County of London, which has its own reformatory at Farnfield. The latter was considered advisable rather than joining with other councils or private institutions, but great caution was shown in entering upon the work, as it was recognised that the Council was a trustee to the public, and that no large expenditure should be incurred unless corresponding benefits could reasonably be expected. Nearly two years elapsed before the L. C. C. commenced to build, and now Dr. Branthwaite remarks 'that the public have the satisfaction of knowing that every action has been fully considered and fully justified by indication and experience.' Drunkenness is found among all classes—often where least expected. All classes require the shelter; all need to understand the connection between what they do and what they are, and to form such habits of life as shall best protect them from a return to their old weakness." Miss Pollock then gave most useful information as to the steps needful to get an inebriate woman into a home and on the best methods of treatment. Other subjects introduced were "Temperance amongst Tramway Men," "Temperance in Mothers' Meetings," "Work in the Slums," introduced by Mrs. Goodman (Southampton), Mrs. Ransom (Bedford), Sister Lillian (London).

Addressing a women's Liberal meeting at Chester, Mr. Ellis Griffith, M.P., chose for a subject, "Mr. Chamberlain as a Beauty Doctor." "The effect of Mr. Chamberlain's prescription of protectionist plaster and Luton lotion, like that of most quack remedies," he said, "is to aggravate the disease and place the patient in a worse position than before." Mr. Balfour's political complexion, continued the speaker, was far

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