

THE HIROSHIMA HOSPITAL.

"Hiroshima, the port of which is called Ujina, is a large city on the Inland Sea, not far from the Shimonoseki Straits. It is the great military base from which all the transports sail and to which the sick and wounded are brought at the earliest possible moment.

"The army surgeons in Manchuria dress the wounds of their patients, but do not operate except in rare cases. The great bulk of the army surgical work is done at the Hiroshima Hospital, an immense establishment in eight sections, where 15,000 to 18,000 men can be cared for at once.

"It was because the most important of the army nursing was to be done at the Hiroshima Hospital that I and my party of American trained nurses had been sent there. Long before the outbreak of the war I had offered to take to Japan some of the trained nurses who had seen field service in our own army during and after the war with Spain, and no sooner did the fighting begin than the Japanese Government and its Red Cross Society sent a cablegram to the Japan Minister in Washington asking me to come to Japan and bring a small party of my nurses.

"Hundreds, if not thousands, of Americans had offered their personal services to Japan, but every offer except this was declined. Going as I did, as a representative of the Society of the Red Cross of Philadelphia, and being President of the Society of Spanish-American War Nurses, I and my party were welcomed as guests of the Japanese nation. We, for our part, did not pretend to decide whether or not we were needed in Japan, nor did we do anything more than express a willingness and desire to serve a friendly country, without remuneration of any kind, for a period of six months of actual service.

"And the work—my nurses did was work, not play, as every one who visited our hospital knows. They were stationed in the section to which the most severely wounded men were sent, and worked in the wards and the operating-room side by side with the Japanese nurses. Thus it was possible for the medical department and the Red Cross Society to carry out their plan of observing the methods followed by American army nurses, and the time which we were able to give to this labour of love was ample for that purpose.

"The Japanese women make charming, kind, and devoted nurses, but it seems hardly necessary to say that, conditions of life in that country being so different from ours, the trained nursing differs considerably from ours in practice. So, while the nurses of the two armies were working side by side every advantage was taken of the opportunity to learn what each had that could be of use and advantage to the other.

"Besides the work at this most important military base my nurses served on the two hospital ships which belong to the Red Cross Society. Some

of them went to Dalny, where they heard the cannonading of Port Arthur, and others went to the Yalu River, where the men from General Kuroki's army embark for home.

"The Minister of War appointed me 'Kangofu Kantoku' (superior of nurses), which position carries with it the rank of officer in the Japanese army, and I was sent to visit and report upon many hospitals in Japan, Manchuria, and Korea.

A PLEA FOR PEACE.

"The Hiroshima streets were always full of soldiers being drilled and exercised in preparation for transfer to the front. So the whole summer long there was a constant stream of men marching past our front door with faces turned towards Manchuria, and another stream of men passing our riverside balcony with faces turned away from the scene of their conflict and glory. All were splendid specimens of strong and vigorous manhood, and the sight of so many thus being poured into a mill that threw them back cruelly slashed and broken was as horrible as anyone could wish to see.

"When will the world have enough of such frightful sacrifices? When will the 'Powers' become sufficiently civilised to intervene, not at the end but before the beginning of great wars? When will it be recognised that no nation can afford to let other nations fight; that the injury to civilisation and human progress is so great that even so powerful a land as Russia should not be permitted to trample on the rights of others?

"I feel, however, this consolation: That the men who are to-day dying on the field of battle are doing their share towards saving the lives of future generations. For the very cruelty of war will help to bring the world to the realisation of the necessity of preventing it. May the reign of peace soon come!"

The Royal Sanitary Institute Conference on Hygiene.

The Conference on School Hygiene will open by a reception of delegates and members at the University of London on the evening of February 7th, when a presidential address will be given in the great hall. The Conference proper opens on the 8th, and continues for the two following days, when papers on the following subjects will be read and discussed:—

Wednesday 8th.—Subject for the day, "Scholars."
11 a.m.—"Physical and Mental Development During School Life."

2 p.m.—"Physical Inspection."
Thursday 9th.—Subject for the day, "Schools."

11 a.m.—"Building and Equipment."
2 p.m.—"Sanitary Inspection."

Friday 10th.—Subject for the day, "Training in Hygiene."

11 a.m.—"Training of Teachers."
2 p.m.—"Training of Scholars."

An exhibition of school appliances, etc., will be held in the Great Hall of the University.

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