

secondly, things grow almost while you are looking at them; and thirdly, the materials for use are so very beautiful. Rare orchids, both ground and tree, are all over the place. Ferns and palms are as plentiful as grass at home. And with a curious touch of *heimweh* the bravest and most stoical are prone to so far from home, there is a huge delight in coaxing the homely daisy and retiring violet to grow amid such alien surroundings.

Again, for the more venturesome we must not omit the delights of trekking. Anything more delightful than a week's holiday spent in this way it would be hard to conceive. Living out under the sky, yoked by day to ten lazy oxen, progressing at the alarming rate of five miles an hour, sometimes not that if the sand be troublesome, it is nevertheless anything but slow. At night, seated on the ground with great big camp fires, singsongs and hearing adventures. Breathing in always the free air of the veldt, getting the sounds of the millions of insects so into one's ears, that to shut one's eyes in the quietest country place at home is to hear them. To listen to the unearthly sounds the Dutch drivers make to hasten on their lethargic team, and perchance to boil with rage at the opprobrious epithets hurled at the "Roonik," or English, through the medium of a stubborn beast. To get more dirty than ever in one's life before, with good, clean wholesome mother earth. To forget that sickness and sorrow have laid their heavy hands upon us, and to imbibe the almighty peace to bear and relieve them when the chance comes once more. All this, and more, is included in a week's trek.

During the wet season, when the heavens open truly, and rains come down in bucketsful, one might devote a few hours to passing on these strange new joys to the folks at home. The life is so strenuous, both in work and play, some of its keen edge could hardly fail to get into the pens. The incidents, even of everyday life, are so thrilling that even the mere recital from faulty pens would make them live for the quieter home folk.

A. E. W.

At a recent meeting of the Swansea Hospital Board the House Committee recommended that in consequence of the accommodation in the Nurses' Home being required for the regular hospital nursing staff, the private nursing department be suspended. Dr. Brooks said the medical staff continually required additional nurses. He also remarked that "they had made £40, notwithstanding their ridiculously small nursing staff." We gather from this that Dr. Brooks approves of the quite inexcusable system of hospitals making money out of the poorly-paid nursing profession. We are of opinion that charitable institutions have no right to utilise the labour of nurses as a commercial commodity any more than that of medical men.

The Quack Nursing Press.

In our issue of the 12th inst. we briefly commented on Sir Henry Burdett's attempt in his newspaper in the previous week to induce nurses to believe that their efforts to obtain recognition of the principle of the registration of individual nurses (which principle he opposed in his evidence before the Select Committee of the House of Commons) had failed. We showed that, on the contrary, in spite of the influence brought to bear by the quack nursing press, what we had to realise was that the Report meant a tremendous step forward, and that ignoring all attempts outside our ranks to sow dissension within them, we must bend our energies to securing the best possible Bill. Our remarks have apparently hit the bull's-eye, as this week his paper contains a quite irrelevant paragraph quoted from his issue of August 5th, which he then proceeds to defend.

What nurses must understand is the danger of a quasi-professional press and the paramount importance to them of organs edited and controlled by members of their own profession.

Nurses have not forgotten, if Sir Henry Burdett has, that before a Select Committee of the House of Lords in 1891 he said of the Registration movement that "the question is really dead," or that in 1896 he voted for a resolution:—

"That a legal system of Registration of Nurses is inexpedient *in principle*, injurious to the best interests of nurses, and of doubtful public benefit."

As to the part played by the *Hospital* newspaper in regard to the Registration movement, back files of that publication are still extant, and those who so desire may read them for themselves.

It is too late in the day for Sir Henry Burdett to imagine that he can by a stroke of his pen persuade nurses that his attitude towards the registration movement during the last seventeen years has been a disinterested, honourable, or generous one. Everyone acquainted with the inner working of the movement knows that he has been the great anti-registration wire-puller, although he has utilised his foolish friends as marionettes. He can never, however, wipe out the record of the past until there is a monster *auto da fé* of all the pernicious anti-registration literature to which he has given his editorial sanction.

SCIENTIFIC PRESS v. HOLLAND.

Under the heading "Scientific Press v. Holland," Mr. Sydney Holland has issued in pamphlet form the correspondence between himself and the Scientific Press as to the scale of charges made to charitable institutions for advertising in the *Hospital* newspaper. Mr. Holland has performed a public duty in drawing attention to this matter, and we hope it will receive the attention of the authorities of hospitals, to whom we understand it has been sent, and to whom, as the trustees of charitable money, it must be of considerable interest.

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