

plates did not crack with fervent heat, and had to be careful that my own drops of moisture did not fall all over them. The smell of Kaffir, even at a distance, is by no means an unalloyed joy, but within the compass of a small hut it quite defies description. However, all ended well; some good groups got taken, and it all fitted in by way of experience. By the time all this was done, it behoved us to make our way homeward. Fifteen miles to walk, and a sunset that is on the pedestrian in the twinkling of an eye, has to be considered, this part of the veldt at night being full of lions, tigers, and jackals. So, tired as to body, but much refreshed mentally, I and my faithful henchman wended our way home, revelling in all the glories of a declining day in the veldt, all the little sounds of the night beginning to hum around us. A. E. W.

We think there must be other nurses who have equally interesting experiences to relate, and hope they will try to do so. Members of the nursing profession are notoriously diffident both as to their aptitude for writing and as to appearing in print, and many interesting experiences are consequently never heard of outside their own immediate circle.

Pasteur and the Silk Industry.

Pasteur may be called the "universal provider" of antitoxins, and half the world will not realise the grave truth underlying the flippant remark. Disease means, eventually, death; and it is always science—patient, plodding science—which comes forward to offer battle, and in the end vanquishes the foe. The vigorous life of a nation depends to a great extent upon its industries, and in a recent consular report on the silk industry of France, we are reminded how nearly a great commerce, not only of France but of nearly all European countries, was ruined owing to disease among silkworms.

For twelve years, from 1853 to 1865, innumerable remedies were tried for a disease which no one understood. Some, indeed, believed it to be the work of an evil spirit, while others considered it a form of cholera. Disinfection by the fumes of burning sulphur was tried with no result. Quinine raised slight hopes, but failed to stem the rapid increase of the disease. Japan alone of all sericultural countries remained immune, though China was only slightly affected; and in 1865 we find that these two countries combined exported as many bales of reeled silk as was produced by the whole of Europe. Silk had gone up to an enormous price, and thousands of working men and women were paupers.

Then the French people, who were the greatest sufferers of all, felt that something radical must be done, and an appeal for help was made to the Government, 3,600 mayors representing their townspeople. The Government appointed a commission to inquire into the matter, and Jean Baptiste Dumas, a famous chemist, was selected to conduct the business. He applied to his friend, Louis Pasteur (already renowned for his researches into fermentation) who at first refused to have anything to do with it, saying that he knew nothing of silkworms. That year, however (1865), he commenced his observations, and after twelve years of hard work and the closest study he had mastered the subject of silkworm diseases, and produced the remedy which was to prove of inestimable value to France, Italy, India, and other countries.

N. E. G.

Professional Review.

A NURSING GUIDE.

The "Nursing Guide," which has been sent out to the Press from the Matron's Office at Guy's Hospital for review, is now in its third annual issue.

The first chapter deals with "Nursing as a Profession," and gives advice to women who seek to be trained as to the best methods of setting about it.

Alluding to the fact that many nurses after gaining their certificate, proceed to prepare for the examination of the Central Midwives' Board, it is stated "a nurse cannot feel equipped for all emergencies until she has acquired this special knowledge." With this we are in agreement; but what can we say of the following: "Indeed, if she can spare the time, the whole of this fourth year would be well employed in learning something of those branches of the profession which are not within her reach in every hospital—namely, maternity work, massage, fever nursing (infectious), and private nursing." At the end of the year a smattering of many things and a thorough knowledge of none would be the result! Private Nursing, District Nursing, and some notes on Massage and Medical Electricity occupy further chapters.

Under the heading "Useful Nursing Information," instruction is given to nurses as to attendance upon infectious cases, on baths, poultice-making, some useful enemata, the administration of aperients, dietary, urine testing, poisons, antidotes and treatment, and an obstetrical table. Another chapter is devoted to useful recipes for the sick room, and instruction for the feeding of infants and legal information are also dealt with. From the Rules and Regulations of the League we learn the essential difference in the constitution of this League and the others which have so far been formed. As we have before shown, every probationer of three months' standing is compelled to become an associate and subscribe to the League. Nurses in their third and subsequent years have to pay a subscription of 15s. annually, and Sisters and members of the administrative staff one guinea. Further, "every associate, who at the end of her period of training, receives a certificate from the hospital (not *may* but) *will* become a life member."

"So long as she remains in the service of the hospital she will pay an annual subscription according to the associates' scale. If she enters and remains in the service of the Guy's Hospital Trained Nurses' Institution the Board of Management will pay on her behalf an annual subscription agreed upon between the Board and the Council of the League."

Lastly, "These rules may at any time be altered by the House Committee upon the recommendation of the Council."

Besides other information, the Guide contains a list of those life members who continue to pay an annual subscription of 2s. 6d., and who, subject to the approval of the Council, are entitled to have their names and addresses entered in the register.

We note under the heading "Nursing News" that there is no mention of the part taken by Guy's Hospital in endeavouring to obtain the incorporation of the Society for Promoting the Higher Education and Training of Nurses by the Board of Trade, or of the Report of the Select Committee on Nursing. Surely a book purporting to be a Nursing Guide should not be silent on these matters.

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