

how many cases in the accident ward might be due to drunkenness. Every time I return to England our national sin stares me in the face. And here, in Gibraltar, which is, I suppose, our smallest colony, it is terribly apparent. Surely the subject of drunkenness and its evils might be put before men and women from the health point of view more than it is at present. Far be it from me to underrate the religious aspect of the sin, but I do think that we should put out all our available strength to grapple with the evil, and that it is not sufficiently explained to adults and impressed on them, and even on children, that excess in drinking not only ruins the mental and physical health of the drunkard if slowly, yet surely, but also imperils the health and well-being of his or her descendants. Pardon this digression.

The Royal Naval Hospital is also near Europa Point, and stands in quite as good a situation as its sister hospital. Until quite recently it was used for both the Services, and is over a hundred years old. But proving quite inadequate for present requirements, the new military hospital was built, and the Navy left in sole possession of the original hospital. Nor was this all, for as Gibraltar has become the base for the Atlantic Fleet, even the undivided possession of the old hospital has not proved sufficient for the requirements of the Navy; therefore it is being added to, entirely renovated, and brought into line with the most modern demands.

The wife of a naval officer was kind enough to accompany me to the hospital, and the Sister in charge showed us round. But as the builders and decorators are in possession, we could only see a few of the wards.

The hospital is built in a long low square, round a large open court, which makes a charming garden, where orange and other trees and shrubs grow and flowers bloom, though just now it looks more like a builder's yard than anything else. As usual, open galleries run round the upper floor. At present, most of the patients are in one huge ward containing forty-eight beds. Probably when the alterations are completed this ward will be made into two. There are very good single wards, which are nearly ready for occupation. The hospital, when enlarged and finished, will hold some 250 patients. It is staffed and nursed on the same plan as the military hospital, only the orderlies become *stewards*, and even the kitchen is called the galley. There is an isolation house for infectious cases. Besides the large open court, there is a large piece of ground in front of the hospital, which will be also laid out with shrubs and flowers.

It would be difficult to imagine finer situations for hospitals than these two Service hospitals at Gibraltar, and I hope and believe that in other respects they "live up" to the situation. Jack and Tommy have comfortable quarters in sickness at the Rock.

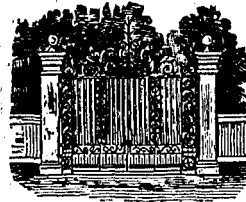
RAY MERTON.

### Esperanto.

Our notice last week of the kind offer of Mr. Alfred E. Wackrill to form a class of nurses for the study of Esperanto has brought us several letters, mostly from nurses in the country, who desire to know if they can be taught by correspondence. We think this might be arranged, but this opens up quite a new question. Mr. Wackrill suggested a class in London for those who could attend.

## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.



The visitors to Birmingham next week in connection with the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland will find that, whatever their special tastes may be, the great capital of the Midlands is a centre of exceptional interest. Birmingham for long has had a Roman, now it has an Anglican cathedral of its own, and within easy reach are the beautiful cathedrals of Worcester and Lichfield. Are visitors interested in education? there are the King Edward's Schools for both boys and girls, in the former of which Archbishop Benson and other members of the episcopate received their education. There is also, close to the Cathedral, the quaint old Blue Coat School, and of course the new University. The hospitals—the General, the Queen's, the Children's, and the Women's will no doubt attract other visitors; then there are many interesting factories, the electroplate works of Messrs. Elkington, pearl button and small arms factories, and at Bourneville the model cocoa works and garden city of Messrs. Cadbury. A visit to this interesting settlement is arranged for the afternoon of Friday, October 27th, prior to which Mr. and Mrs. George Cadbury will entertain at luncheon speakers and members of the Council. The city also has a fine Art Gallery, the surrounding country is charming, and space fails us to do more than mention the proximity of Dudley, Warwick, Leamington, Kenilworth, Stratford-on-Avon, Redditch—the centre of the needle manufactories—and many other interesting places. Nor must mention be omitted of the Black Country, hideous, desolate, weird, and fascinating, which lies just beyond the borders of the city, turning many miles of country of great natural beauty into a barren waste. The best time to see it is at night, when the stranger may be pardoned for thinking that he has wandered into the Inferno.

The House of Representatives at Melbourne has granted the sum of £25,000 as Australia's contribution towards the cost of the Queen Victoria Memorial to be erected in London. The splendour of the scheme of the surroundings to this memorial is now apparent. Who would now recognise the sylvan Mall from the gates of Buckingham Palace? No one. But every lover of London must feel justifiable pride in the magnificent new Processional Road, ending in its grand sweep and surrounding parapet, in the very centre of which the memorial is to stand. London lends itself to grandeur, and of late years, thanks to the County Council, it is becoming one of the most beautiful, as it is the most enchanting city in the world.

Very pathetic was the answer of a poor man to the magistrate at Clerkenwell, who said he wanted to get his little lad into a home of some sort for a short time. "My wife has gone away and broken up our home. I cannot look after the boy properly, there's only me and him. I have nobody but him, and he has nobody but me." A woman who can desert her only child is surely a creature beyond the pale of the natural law. It is well there is so much mother love unappropriated in this world at the service of these poor waifs and strays.

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