

Our Foreign Letter.

THE HOME BUREAU.

New York City, U.S.A.



On what
gossamer
hinges
swings the
door of fate;
on looking
back, on
looking back
how often
one sees

some incident, trivial in itself, but which has set in motion a train of circumstances to open up a whole new life. In West 39th Street, a few doors from Sixth Avenue, is a most charming establishment covering a diet kitchen where delicacies for the sick can be obtained in the most perfect forms and at the shortest notice. From this kitchen hundreds of New York's sick citizens are fed in hospitals, hotels, and private houses. The kitchen itself, an old Dutch one, with wide open fireplace and oak rafters, is the picture of comfort, and with its shining coppers and brasses takes one back into an age when ladies really knew something of home work. On the floor above this are spacious offices, where the largest association of nurses in America finds its home, there are over a thousand nurses on its registers. Waiting rooms and surgical supply rooms. Again, above this floor are fine show rooms where one may purchase or view dainty uniform for nurses, also nurses' and babies' outfits. The services of some of New York's best medical men can be secured through the Home Bureau. There is accommodation for a few cases in the house, where one knows the sick will receive the best care and feeding. All this owes its existence to a woman's passing illness, a French chef, and a too rich bowl of soup. The way of the fairy story was this. In the household of a rich banker the wife fell ill, and nourishing soups and well prepared delicacies became absolutely necessary to her recovery. The chef's Parisian indigestible soups, etc., were returned without thanks by the family doctor. All were in despair, when to the rescue came the daughter of the house, a beautiful society belle. She had taken a course of cooking lessons just for the fun of the thing. This ministering angel concocted such dainty, plain, nourishing delicacies as contributed very largely to her mother's recovery. The doctor's commendation set the young woman wondering why in all this big city there was no place where really well cooked food for the sick could be obtained. She married and forgot all about it until the storms of life swept her high on the rocks of misfortune, her husband dead, her fortune gone, and preferring to be independent, her thoughts returned to sick room cooking, and the Home Bureau was begun in two small rooms overlooking Bryant Park. It has developed into the present large establishment. We had the pleasure of being invited to the nurses' two an-

nual days recently, and very much we enjoyed ourselves. First we visited the offices and show rooms, and examined the varied and interesting new appliances, then we drank tea and coffee, and ate lovely cakes and biscuits most daintily served in the old Dutch kitchen to the strains of a charming band, to say nothing of the smiling white-clad ladies who ministered so kindly to our entertainment, making us really sorry to leave, and we felt the most sincere admiration for our hostess, who has proved how decidedly absurd it is to think that a beautiful woman cannot also be very capable and clever. E.A.M.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

There is no doubt that a new Nurses' Home is urgently needed at the Paddington Infirmary, but a minority of the local Board of Guardians, backed by a large body of the ratepayers, are strongly protesting against a project to erect a nurses' home at a cost of £10,000. It is pointed out that the economical adaptation of existing buildings would meet all requirements, and representations to this effect have been made to the Local Government Board. We hope money will not be wasted in botching. Nothing is more costly in the end.

The Hackney Board of Guardians have appointed a lady as vaccination officer for the northern division of the Union. There were thirteen applicants, and the successful candidate was Mrs. Buckmaster, widow of a former Superintendent Relieving Officer.

A new wing has been added to the Bolingbroke Hospital, Wandsworth Common, bringing it thoroughly up to date in regard to equipment and appliances. On Saturday the wing was thrown open to visitors, of whom there was a very large attendance. The cost of the completed wing is about £25,000. The institution is intended to be the general hospital for the south-western district, and when completed it will have 153 beds. The addition now completed consists of one of the three blocks which, with an administrative block, will form the entire hospital. The Duchess of Rutland has promised to open a bazaar in October next on behalf of the building fund for the completion of the hospital at a cost of £80,000.

Dying several years ago, Mr. Benjamin Weir, of Clapham Park, left £130,000 for the purpose of founding and upkeeping a medical charity for Streatham and the neighbourhood. A movement is now on foot to utilise Mr. Weir's late residence as a convalescent home.

The Duchess of Marlborough will lay the foundation stone of the new extension of the West Ham and East London Hospital, on the 27th inst., at three o'clock. After the ceremony there will be tea and coffee and music.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)