

the Treasurer, and the Prince and Princess were then conducted over the new building.

A wonderfully spacious building, containing halls and suites of rooms, each department complete and self-contained, is fitted with every appliance for the treatment of medical, surgical, and special cases. The walls are tiled throughout. There are 20 small single-bedded wards for the reception of those patients whom it is necessary to detain for a short period, a great relief to the wards, especially at night. It is estimated that to work this addition to the Hospital it will require a nursing service of a Sister and eighteen nurses. The Royalties and guests paid visits to many of the wards, and in "President," where the floral decorations were specially delicate and tasteful, we noted the name letters of the Prince and Princess beautifully carried out in mauve sweetpeas and pink carnations. Then what is there that Sisters' cunning fingers cannot do?

Masses of splendid crimson roses made Mark Ward a perfect bower, and many old friends took a peep at the "living" picture of the Sister who recently resigned after 27 years of faithful service. Music, a lovely tea in the Library, and the meeting of many old friends passed a happy hour.

## Our Foreign Letter.

### UNDER A BLACK CLOUD.



Hospital, after exceptionally trying hot weather and rains, when bad cases and deaths had been unusually numerous. But although such seasons do occur from time to time in one's Indian experience, life in Indian Military Hospitals is by no means depressing; it, indeed, affords a good deal of amusement to anyone who possesses an eye for character and a keen sense of the ludicrous.

In the Sisters' Wards a class of orderlies is always undergoing training. They have lectures from the Sisters, and practical instruction in the wards. One morning a lecture had been given on the feeding of enterics, and the vital importance of preventing all smuggling in of forbidden dainties by native servants had been specially emphasised. Later, the Sister on duty questioned one of the men about what he had heard.

"What did Sister X. talk to you about this morning?"

"Sister X. she spoke beautiful, but I disremember wot she said."

"Come now, can't you remember what she told you about feeding enterics?"

"You Sisters must live always under a black cloud!" was said to a Sister in an Indian Military

"Oh, she said as 'ow none o' them wardboys wasn't to give 'em no solid food."

"Why not?"

"'Cos they'd get 'oles in their insides!"

Another man had absorbed rather more knowledge. The subject of perforation in enteric fever had been carefully explained to the class. "Now, suppose your friend, Private Jones, was in hospital, and you heard he had died of perforation, what should you think had actually happened to Private Jones?"

"I should think as 'ow one o' these yere ulsters of hisn 'ad prespired!"

The orderly in charge of a ward is always required to write a report of all that has happened during his tour of duty. Some startling facts are sometimes chronicled.

"The Medical Officer visited Jones at 10 p.m. He slep well, and prespired at interviews (intervals)!"

"Smith had his nourishment reglar. He also had bleeding from the nose."

"Brown was very restless, and would not sleep without I sot beside him and took nourishment reglar."

The orderly on night duty in an emergency, if there is no Sister on night duty, sends an agitated note devoid of all punctuation:—

"Dere Sister, please come up to hospital at onct as there is a man admitted with compound fracture of the Artillery!"

The patient belonged to the Artillery, and was suffering from compound fracture of femur.

Orderlies as a rule are fond of their work, and very anxious to learn.

"All is very anxious to be tuk on permanent as orderly. 'Ee were doing temporary dooty twice, and while 'ee were waiting to come on permanent 'ee done all 'ee could, 'ee went in for a course of butchering!"

Was this a suitable preliminary course, before going in for surgical nursing? It must be explained that a certain number of men are trained as butchers by the Supply and Transport Department, so Hall was able to gratify his thirst for self-improvement, and was still further gratified by being "tuk on permanent" as orderly.

A military funeral is a function much enjoyed by all soldiers; part of the performance is a visit to the mortuary, but on one occasion, for sanitary reasons, this was forbidden, to the great disappointment of the men. The following *sotto voce* remarks were overheard from the funeral party:

"Call this yere a bloomin' funeral? I calls it a bloomin' sell. Who hever 'eard of a funeral w'ere you wasn't allowed to go and see the corpse? An' that there Adjutant 'ee give orders as nobody wasn't to go into the dead 'ouse. Wonder 'ow 'ee'd like it, if nobody never went to see 'im? An' I 'ear (herein lay the sting of the disappointment) as 'ow the corpse looked 'orrible!"

A patient in a Civil Hospital said farewell to his favourite nurse in these impressive words:

"You've bin a good lass to me, Miss, a rare good lass. I 'ope as the Lord'll reward you, but there—we never know!"

I.A.S.

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