

regulations which make life burdensome in most Convalescent Homes and kindred Institutions. There will also be no restriction as to age or sex, and recently a dozen little girls employed in the London theatres were the first to take possession of the house. Its accommodation is limited to that number, and already the guests invited for a fortnight's stay will fill the house till November. Mrs. Chant's sister is acting as housekeeper, but the busy lecturer will herself seek occasional rest at Holiday House, which is to be "open" on Saturdays to all her friends. It will be news, perhaps, to my readers to know that this lady, generally known in this country and America as one of the most eloquent women speakers of the day, is a Trained Nurse. She worked for several years as Nurse and Sister at the London Hospital, and left there to be married to Dr. Chant.

THERE are few things more important for Nurses to understand than the administration of rectal injections. Nutritive enemata, though often indicated in cases of œsophageal or gastric disease, are comparatively rarely used, because of the general scepticism as to their utility. Either they are of but little nutritive value, as in the case of bouillon, or they are difficult of absorption by the rectum, as in the case of milk. Leube suggested, in 1872, the use of pancreatized beef pulp, and afterwards Ewald proposed the peptonces of meat and of cheese as offering suitable material for rectal feeding. There is no doubt that the substances recommended by these writers are, in part at least, absorbed by the rectum. Nevertheless, their use has never become general, because of the difficulty of their preparation. Ewald, as a result of further experiments, found that eggs, even though not peptonized, were to a considerable extent absorbed by the rectal mucous membrane. According to the *Mercredi médical*, Huber, of Zurich, has recently repeated Ewald's experiments in Professor Eichhorst's clinic, and announces that the absorption of the raw eggs is greatly aided by the addition of common salt. The salt is well borne, and causes as a rule, no irritation of the bowel. He considers that eggs beaten up with salt, in the proportion of fifteen grains to each egg, are the best form of nutritive enema. His method of procedure is as follows: Two or three eggs are taken and thirty to forty-five grains of salt are added to them. They are slowly injected by means of a soft rubber tube carried as high up into the bowel as possible. Three such enemata are given daily. An hour before each enema the rectum is cleared out by means of a large injection of warm water.

ALL Nurses interested in leprosy—and what true Nurse is not moved by hearing of suffering?—should read the *Woman's Herald* for Sept. 5, in which will be found a most interesting interview with Miss Field, who accompanied Miss Kate Marsden to Russia. It will be remembered that Miss Marsden has lately been brought prominently forward in connection with her noble work amongst the lepers of Siberia, and Miss Field has returned to England to collect funds.

SHE says: "At Tiflis, we heard rumours of a wonderful herb which was said to cure leprosy. The archbishop confirmed this report, but no opportunity has been given to test the efficacy of the plant. These lepers regard all Doctors with great mistrust, and will not reveal their secrets. They, however, look upon a Nursing Sister as a friend, and, to show you this, when Miss Marsden's advent was telegraphed, the peasants in the villages through which she passed refused to see a Doctor who went through the previous day, preferring to consult a woman. They flocked to the station-houses to greet her, bringing people suffering from various ailments that she might prescribe for them, so great was their faith in her. 'Will this herb prove a cure?'

THIS is exactly what Miss Marsden hopes to discover. She is now engaged in studying its effects upon the lepers, Bishop Dyonisius having written to the priests at Yakutsk to have a certain quantity of the herb ready for her. It is called by the natives 'Kutshukta.' Its effects were discovered by a leper whose state was such he could no longer live with his family. He lay in the fields, and day by day his people brought him food. He was so prostrate he could only lie on the ground, but after a few days he found, to his surprise, his sores were healing, and it was discovered to be due to the efficacy of a certain plant with which he came in contact. Experiments were made, with the result that it certainly healed leprosy. Miss Marsden now hopes to collect sufficient funds to establish a Hospital where the patients can have every attention and care possible."

FROM South Africa comes a story of three Nurses who were engaged to accompany an expedition which recently started to explore the unknown wilds of Mashonaland. A venerable Bishop accompanied the party—on missionary enterprise intent. But as the expedition moved up country, the roads became worse and worse, and the difficulties of transport and advance greater and greater. At last the Bishop

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)