

positions as ordinary servants, and be treated to hard work and the society of those who, in a social sense, are very much their inferiors."

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UPON the same subject there is an interesting letter in the *Queen* last week with especial reference to the women who go out to the Australian colonies (especially Queensland) as domestic servants, governesses, and shop girls.

"I write both in the interests of the girls and of their employers. Many are tempted to come out by the high wages offered, and are also misled in many instances by the too flattering pictures put before them by the various lecturers, of easy places, speedy and opulent marriages, &c. The consequence is that numbers come out who do not know how to work, and do not wish to do so; they enter service for a short time, are thoroughly incompetent and discontented, and, after having upset a household, leave, and very often, I am sorry to say, fall into bad ways. In the case of shop girls, the utmost they can earn is ten shillings a week, and out of that have to board and lodge themselves, and they cannot do that under eight shillings a week at the lowest, which leaves two shillings a week for clothes, sickness, or any emergency. If they set up for themselves, they may get, if good dressmakers and go out by the day, three shillings and sixpence per day, but cannot be sure of constant work, and the summer is a slack season. For governesses, if they go up into the bush on a station, they may have a pleasant life sometimes, but, as the servants often leave all together, the mistress of a house has to do a great deal of menial work herself, and naturally expects the governess to help her, which the latter, if not prepared for it, very often resents. In most of the towns, especially Brisbane, there are large and good schools for girls, and parents, as a rule, prefer sending their daughters to them daily, to having a governess in the house. There is no doubt servants get places at once, and easily; but then, they must work hard, and, as people keep fewer servants in proportion to their families than they do in England, their work is more mixed; and also, in the hot season of the year, it is more trying, especially as more meat is eaten than in England; their blood gets heated, they get fever, and then blame the climate. A general servant gets twelve shillings to fourteen shillings per week, and has to do all the housework and cooking and washing. In a house where there are children, and a nurse is kept, the nurse helps in part of the housework, or assists in waiting at table. Of course, there are houses where there are four and five women servants kept, but, even where there is a laundrymaid kept, the cook has no scullery or kitchen maid, though she gets from fifteen shillings to one pound a week. A parlourmaid gets twelve shillings a week, and a housemaid ten shillings; but these are exceptional cases, as most people keep only two servants.

Good general servants, who are used to work, and are not afraid of it, are the right sort to emigrate; they can always find places, and can get good wages too; but so many are really unfitted by education and health for life in the colonies, that it is only fair that they should know what they are doing before they go out. Also, the houses are differently built and arranged; there are none of the many conveniences and labour-saving arrangements of English houses, so they are disheartened at once. Then, again, girls arrive who never have been in service at all, whose life has been spent in out-of-door work, or who have been in factories and mills; there is nothing for them to do in that way in Queensland, so they go into service, with what comfort and help to a much worried mother of a family you may imagine."

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

*** Will Publishers always kindly append Prices, when sending Publications for Review.

HOSPITAL SISTERS AND THEIR DUTIES. By Eva C. E. Lückes, Matron to the London Hospital. London: J. & A. Churchill, 11, New Burlington Street.

This book consists of six chapters of sound common-sense remarks upon the obligations of those who in a very great measure are responsible for the smooth and efficient working of hospital nursing, and we are not surprised to find it entering upon a second edition. All associated with a nursing staff, from the matron to the ward-maid, may find something to learn, and no little to unlearn, by the perusal of Miss Lückes' practical little work.

INTELLECTUAL INTEREST: An Address delivered at Aberdeen University, January 31st, 1888. By George Joachim Goschen, Lord Rector. London: Harrison & Sons, St. Martin's Lane, W.C.

"The question is, whether they are so taught as to expand the mind, or merely to fill it." This is practically the whole address in a nutshell, and we commend it to the hearty consideration of the many philosophers who consider the breadth rather than the depth of the subjects of education. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is able in more matters than finance.

CORRESPONDENCE.

*** We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents. Brevity and conciseness will have first consideration. See notices.

NURSING IN SMALL HOMES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—At the present time, when the subject of nurses and nursing is exciting so much interest, I venture to hope the following suggestion may meet with attention through your paper.

As far as I can learn, in all our nursing organisations (rapidly and efficiently as they are developing year by year) one class of sick people seems to be

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)