

but a distraction based on free movement and individual initiative. If the British people of the better class were the superiors of Continental nations from the point of view of physique and longevity, they owed it to their national sports and out-door exercises.

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THIS subject was appropriately followed by a report made by the British Committee appointed by the Congress at its last gathering in 1891, to investigate the physical and mental condition of children in Schools. Since 1892, fifty thousand children had been examined. Those suffering from physical or mental defects, or both, were found to be more numerous in Poor Law Schools, and in certified Industrial Schools, than in day schools. The former may become fatter; but they more often presented brain disorder and mental dulness. The report declared that more boys than girls were ill-developed, but that ill-developed girls tended more to be delicate and mentally dull. Children undeveloped, mentally and physically, formed 16 per thousand of those examined. A careful system of observation of such cases was strongly recommended to the Governments of various countries.

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SOME terrible Vandals have been suggesting that the estates of Kilmainham Hospital (Dublin), and Chelsea Hospital, of Nell Gwynne fame, should be sold for building land, and the proceeds, estimated from £2,323,000 to £4,000,000, should be invested for the benefit of all pensioners over fifty-five years of age. The contention was that the Hospital funds for its erection and maintenance had been raised by certain stoppages of the soldier's pay; in short, that "the soldiers own money" had been forcibly taken from them for a charitable object; much in the same way as the religious mother who allowed her child two-pence a week pocket money, but insisted that it should be put into the missionary box. The difficulty was referred to a Parliamentary Committee, who, after careful examination, declare that "the investigations they have made into the origin and appropriation of all these funds, prove conclusively that there is no ground for the contention that the money was in any sense provided by the soldiers themselves, or that any sums have been improperly appropriated either from the pensioners' money or unclaimed prize money." Thus the Hospitals are saved, if, indeed, they ever could have stood in real danger. Did the British nation ever seriously contemplate doing away with these Institutions before the armies of this and other nations are disbanded, and war relegated to the past, one would imagine it had dropped into dotage. There is an increasing demand for admittance to the benefits of these Hospitals; and if any change is made, it should be in the direction of increased accommodation,

Letter from Holland.

What news on the Rialto?
Merchant of Venice.

WHAT news on the Rialto of our Dutch Nursing world? Little news; indeed, very little, and quite uninteresting to our very energetic English sisters. As you will probably have read in the papers, there are some cases of cholera in our blessed City of Amsterdam. Happily, the dreadful illness does not bear an epidemical character. There have been as yet only fifty-one cases. Eighteen persons have died as the victims of the terrible disease, and at the moment seventeen cholera patients are nursed in the Wilhelmina Hospital. The Sisters in the above-mentioned Hospital, who fulfil their difficult and much including task with the greatest zeal and devotion, have the satisfaction of seeing their work crowned with success. Certainly a most encouraging and stimulating feeling.

The fact that our Dutch Association for Treatment of the Sick may glory in the highly appreciated sympathy of the readers of the NURSING RECORD—otherwise the Editor would not be so kind as to yield some columns of the paper to the report of its meetings—fills our hearts with joy. I only wish that I could tell you more news concerning the professional progress of our Dutch Nursing Association. But, alas! we have not more than one general meeting in the whole year, surely not very much. Imagine yourselves in a green meadow, in which cows are peaceably pasturing. An unclouded sky vaults the quiet landscape, where all is harmony and loveliness. Such is the image of the Dutch Nursing world. The sky, so blue and serene now, was covered, however, some time ago, with dark and threatening thunder-clouds, brought forth by the resolutions taken by the Association in its meeting of the 19th of December of the previous year. But the clouds have disappeared, and the sky has resumed its bright and smiling aspect, since the acceptance of the modifications, proposed by the management of the Association at the General Meeting of the 29th of May. The condition, that all those who wished to be admitted to the examination of Nurse must supply proof that they had been attached for the time of *three years to one, and the same*, Hospital, or to several institutions under the same management, and also the stipulation that the Hospital where the Probationer received her training must contain at least forty beds, has made thrill with indignation and opposition the hearts of a great number of persons sincerely interested in the Nursing work. The columns of the Monthly Magazine for Treatment of the Sick—the organ of the Association—were filled with complaints and demonstrations from the side of free Nurses, deaconesses, and several smaller Nursing institutions. The condition, that the Hospital where the Probationer should be trained to an efficient Nurse, capable to fulfil duly her noble, but difficult, task, must contain at least forty beds, was, according to the opinions of the most violent opposers, a resolution only taken on behalf of the Hospitals in the larger cities of our country, while the interests of the smaller ones were neglected in a most inexcusable manner. The larger Hospitals would usurp the best forces, and those with less than forty beds would

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