

which may be made for their government. To illustrate our argument, we would refer to the notorious fact that at several large Hospitals the Nursing Staff are utilised, long before they have acquired a sufficiency of knowledge in their craft, to act as private Nurses amongst the outside public. They are, however, sent out, and, too frequently we regret to add, they are described, as "thoroughly trained Nurses." They therefore receive a status to which they are not entitled; and, trusting in the good faith of the Hospital, the public pay for their services the customary price charged for such skilled assistants. The receipts go to swell the Hospital revenue; in the majority of instances the wage-earner receives but a very small salary, and the Hospital benefits therefore by the deception upon the public, and by the sweating of the Nurse to the extent of some four or five hundred per cent. upon the amount of her cost to the Institution.

Considering the immense issues of life and death which so often depend upon the Nurse's vigilance, knowledge, and trained carefulness, the public have much cause to feel dissatisfied with such treatment; the more especially as it is meted out to those by whose benevolence the Hospital itself continues to exist. Some day, perhaps, the public will awake to the manner in which it is at present treated by these few Hospitals, and will insist upon measures being taken for its own protection.

With regard, however, to the Nursing profession as a body, and to the individual Nurses who are thus treated, the matter requires most careful consideration. It is manifest that the system is unjust, and that it cannot be defended upon any ground either of right or expediency, so far as the Nurses themselves are concerned. It implies the sending of Probationers who are learning their work in the wards under more or less systematic instruction and supervision, out into private houses to acquire what little knowledge they can at the expense of their patients, and without supervision or assistance. It breaks their course of training, it renders them subsequently less efficient than they would have been if they had enjoyed the full advantages of that continuous education which was promised to them, and upon the strength of which agreement they entered their Hospital. It converts them into a mere marketable commodity, and one from which usurious interest is forcibly taken. But, as we shall show, in our next article on the subject, the results, grave as they are to the individual, are even more serious as they affect the whole profession of Nursing.

#### KOREA.

THE eyes of the civilised world are fixed upon Korea, the tongue-like peninsula stretching out from Manchuria, a province of China. This little land, which for centuries may be said to have stagnated along with the rest of the East, threatens to alter the balance of

power in Asia. Whether Japan was or was not right in sinking the Kowshing flying the British flag, and manned by a British crew, before there had been a declaration of war, we have not space to discuss, but one thing is obvious—there could not be a clearer *casus belli*. The sympathy of many Englishmen was given to China; and, at first, few people doubted which country would gain the victory; but subsequent events have proved that the majority were wrong in their prognostications. As the Japanese have practically routed the Chinese army and navy, there is little doubt that the former government will be able to carry out many greatly needed reforms in Korea. But why is Japan so eager to interest herself in the affairs of the peninsula? Because she has a political interest there; because it lies dangerously near to Japan, should it be occupied by a people hostile and belligerent; because also she has done much to develop the trade and industry in that country. "Virtually, the greater part of Korea's modern trade has been created by Japan, and is in the hands of her merchants," says Mr. Henry Norman in the *Contemporary Review*. But if Japan gets unlimited control over Korea, and China drops into apathy again, the problem is hardly likely to be solved for long, for "what do wars, but constant wars produce?" Russia is viewing the situation with great keenness. She has on several occasions proved herself to be no friend to Japan, whose commendable advancement towards European civilisation make her a dangerous neighbour, and more dangerous if she obtains great power in Korea, for so much the nearer does it bring her to Siberia. Further, Russia greatly suspects that England is carefully watching her opportunity to occupy the country or get some advantages there for herself. One thing is certain—the war will bring about far more reaching results than are realised at present. It may alter the whole constitution of Chinese Government; and send the "Celestials" adrift over the face of the earth. Then Americans may come further West, which is East, and do a little "prospecting." But "there is no end to what there might be."

#### A LUCKY FIND.

Quite recently an expert is reported to have been struck with the appearance of a picture covered with at least half an inch of grime and dust, in a London auction room. It looked dingy and old, and measured 28 inches by 40, but to the expert eye it appeared to be undoubtedly an old Master. Obtaining it for the modest sum of thirty-five shillings, its new possessor had it carefully cleaned, and it was then discovered to be an undoubted Rubens, a glory of colour and magnificent composition, and estimated to be worth not less than £1,000. The story is not only an example of good fortune and better judgment, but proves that there are good pictures still to be obtained whose value is but little recognised by their possessors, just as one can obtain in country districts, from old farm-houses, magnificent specimens of Chippendale or Sheraton furniture for a sum insignificant compared with their actual value at the present day; and as in other country houses it is by no means uncommon to find old Chelsea or Wedgwood ware relegated to the kitchen or the nursery.

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