

draughts of tea. Wafers, bonbons, and all manner of trifles, light as air, were flanked by more substantial viands.

"There were all manner of uniforms among the club Nurses, according to the various schools from which they were graduated. There were prim little Puritan caps pinned demurely over blond frizzes, and puffed up muslin caps, perched coquettishly on dark tresses, and all wore the immaculate wide collar and cuffs of white linen, and some variety of spotless white apron, with either a formal bib extending up over the bust, or the sedate white kerchief worn surplice fashion or crossed over the corsage. The Florence Nightingale was a unique costume. The dress was of quiet, Quaker grey, and the cap of quaint pattern, with a fall of fine muslin depending from the back. The wearer of this dress was a graduate from an English school. There were members of the Brooklyn Nurses' Club present, and scattered among the numerous guests of the organization were several physicians. Just next door is the Dispensary and Hospital of the Episcopal church of New York, and some of the trustees of the Hospital took occasion to pay their respects to the trained Nurses. 'Too much praise cannot be accorded these noble women,' said a trustee of the Hospital, 'who, when at home for rest and recreation, volunteer their services to nurse such poor and deserving patients as come under our observation.'"

I have no hesitation in quoting this latter clause, as although my name is on the list I have never happened to be free to give my services since I joined the volunteer corps; ever since November, 1893, I have passed from one patient to another without having had time to report myself as disengaged.

I am very happy to say that we have had very little disaffection amongst our members; and no gossip or disagreeables in any way, that I have come in contact with. The prevailing feeling has been a very pleasant one. We are remarkably fortunate in our President, Mrs. Kate Teachman, who is always the same with her cheery welcome, her even temper and broad-mindedness, and exceptional power of organizing, and her never-varying enthusiasm with regard to our club. She has issued an invitation to us all to meet her every Wednesday evening during the winter months at 104, West 41st Street. At her "social" we lay business matters aside, and either talk or play cards, or have some music. She gives us a cup of tea, and expects us to bring our friends with us, if we wish to do so.

Our Mutual Benefit Fund stands much where it stood, as far as organization is concerned, when I last wrote. However, the members of the association have increased in numbers to a small extent. We have decided to wait until we reach the figure twenty-five before we call a meeting to organize, as we once thought of doing in November last. When we attain the dignity of being twenty-five in number we think of asking some business men to meet us and give us their advice as to the manner of organizing. About a year ago we started out with the sum of 7 dols.—now the Fund amounts to about 500 dols. Quite lately three of our club members were Nursing in the same house in Fifth Avenue—the first patient notified her intention of becoming an honorary member of our Mutual Benefit Fund Association, and advanced 25 dols. as her subscription for the next five years. Shortly after the lady's father and mother expressed

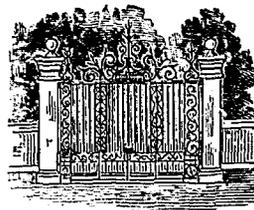
the wish to become life members, and sent us a cheque for 200 dols. Since last summer there has been no second case of illness amongst our members, so our fund is getting a chance to increase. The initiation fee of our Mutual Benefit Fund is 2 dols. (about 8s. 4d.), and the dues 50 cents (about 2s.) per month—by no means a serious drain on Nurses' purses; and the benefits in times of illness are really great—5 dols. per week for six weeks.

If we can see our way to do so we hope to increase the time for receiving the 5 dols. to twelve instead of six weeks. If it can possibly be managed we also wish to make this New York City Mutual Benefit Fund open to all Nurses in this City. Such a fund is badly needed. Each member of the fund is asked to secure, if possible, two honorary or life members—the former of whom subscribes 5 dols. per year to the fund, the latter becomes such by the act of giving 100 dols. to the fund. They receive no benefit from the fund. They are generally ex-patients or those interested in the welfare of Nurses.

"AN ENGLISH NURSE IN NEW YORK."

Outside the Gates.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL.



ON March 2nd London is again called upon to record under what policy it desires to be governed during the next three years; whether it desires Progressive or Moderate principles to lead; whether, in short, the splendid work that has been so far initiated shall or shall not be nipped in the flowering stage by a retrograde collective vote. But does a review of the past work of the County Council justify a broad-minded citizen, anxious to see first justice and then mercy prevail, in helping to make the future the direct offspring of the past. The Council challenges comparison with its predecessor, but the two are not to be named in the same breath. The Metropolitan Board of Works lived, as *Punch* ironically put it, by faith and not by works. But unceasing energy and constant watchfulness has marked from the very outset the policy of London's Council. Without respect of person or vested interest it has poked its nose into the dark forgotten corners of this huge city, and without resting satisfied has made plentiful use of the municipal mop. And it is to be remembered that the services of the members have been wholly gratuitous. Without even so much as a cup of tea and a bun at the public expense, they have applied themselves persistently to put into force and stretch to its utmost limits the scraps of power with which they have been invested by a tardy Government. Unfortunately, one or two of the members have brought odium upon their private life, and enemies have not been slow to visit their misdeeds upon their fellow members and blacken the blots. But never for one moment has their public honesty been brought into question; corruption and bribery

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