

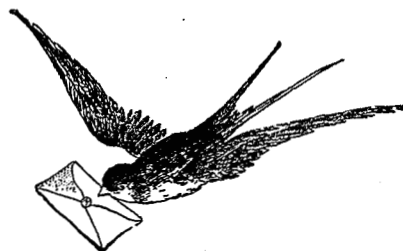
In concluding he observed: "The close association of the rarer metals and carbon, and their intimate relations with carbon when they are hidden with it in iron, enabled me to refer to the production of the diamond, and affords a basis for the few observations I would offer in conclusion. These relate to the singular attitude towards metallurgical research maintained by those who are in a position to promote the advancement of science in this country. Statements respecting the change of dull graphite into shining graphite are received with appreciative interest, but, on the other hand, the vast importance of effecting similar molecular changes in metals is ignored.

"We may acknowledge that 'no nation of modern times has done so much practical work in the world as ourselves, none has applied itself so conspicuously, or with such conspicuous success to the indefatigable pursuit of all those branches of human knowledge which give to man his mastery over matter.' But it is typical of our peculiar British method of advance to dismiss all metallurgical questions as 'industrial,' and leave their consideration to private enterprise.

"We are to spend, I believe, twenty millions this year on our navy, and yet the nation only endows experimental research in all branches of science with four thousand pounds.

"We spend a million on the 'Magnificent,' and stand by while manufacturers compete for providing ships of her class with the armour plate which is to save them from disablement or destruction. We, as a nation, are fully holding our own in metallurgical progress, but we might be doing so much more. Why are so few workers studying the rarer metals and their alloys? Why is the crucible so often abandoned for the test tube? Is not the investigation of the properties of alloys precious for its own sake, or is our faith in the fruitfulness of the results of metallurgical investigation so weak that in its case the substance of things hoped for remains unsought and unseen in the depths of obscurity in which metals are still left? We must go back to the traditions of Faraday, who was the first to investigate the influence of the rarer metals upon iron, and to prepare the nickel-iron series, of which so much has since been heard. *He* did not despise research which might possibly tend to useful results, but joyously records his satisfaction at the fact that a generous gift from Wollaston of certain of the 'scarcer and more valuable metals' enabled him to transfer his experiments from the laboratory of the Royal Institution to the works of the manufacturer at Sheffield. Faraday not only began the researches I am pleading for tonight, but he gave us the germ of the dynamo by the aid of which, as we have seen, the rarer metals may be isolated.

"May we not hope that Metallurgy will be well represented in the laboratory which private munificence is to place side by side with our dear, historic Royal Institution."



Our Foreign Letter.

FROM A BRITISHER IN BROOKLYN, U.S.A.

"A good deal has been said about hospitals and Nursing from the point of view of the doctor and the trained Nurse. They, however, it seems to me—who am just a 'mere man' and a late inmate of one of the public hospitals of this city—are *not* the chief persons concerned.

Hospitals were, I believe, built for sick people; and so a few words from a patient's point of view. Of course, it is not fair to the Nurses and doctors to ask the patient what he thinks of the hospital while he is in it. Wait till he is well. Otherwise you would gather from him that a royal commission to inquire into hospital abuses is a matter of urgent necessity.

When I was convalescent I made friends with a young man who had had an operation performed on him. Both he and myself, as it appeared, had arrived at the conclusion that in the interests of humanity, the hospital in which we both were unfortunate enough to find ourselves, ought really to be 'written up.'

Let me then jot down a few impressions and facts. Now that the reality is only a memory I can approach the subject with more justice than I could have done at the time.

I was last winter for some seven weeks in a Brooklyn hospital suffering from acute pneumonia; one month of the time was spent in bed. For the first two weeks I was in the free ward, having been carried delirious to the hospital and unable to communicate with my friends. After these two weeks, when the worst was really over, I was removed to a private room.

The hospital in question was nursed by nuns, a good many of them German, none of them trained Nurses, having acquired their knowledge by what they had 'picked up' in the wards, having little or no acquaintance with physiology, hygiene or skilled Nursing. They were wonderfully kind to the patients as far as their knowledge went, but this was woefully deficient.

It is no use mincing matters; the food in the wards was bad—distinctly bad. It was food I could not eat with appetite even if I were in good health. After a day's skating on a bitterly cold day with nothing else to eat I might, perhaps, have almost relished it, but to a sick man it was nauseating.

At 7 a.m. we had breakfast, consisting of 'mush' tea, coffee and bread and butter. We always preferred the tea to anything else, but the 'mush'—porridge, semolina, or hominy—was very difficult to swallow. It was like sand and hot water. There was nothing to tempt a patient to eat. The beef tea we had later in the morning was just like everything else, nauseating.

The hospital was kept as clean as a new pin. The

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