

is getting filled up with its helpless, suffering occupants, the other trains are starting. The blue, the violet, the grey, the yellow, the red, all heavily laden, have left the terminus, the pilgrims chanting hymns as they quit the station. The white train, with its ambulance and hospital accommodation, becomes the centre of interest, and very tenderly, patiently, and carefully is the difficult task of transferring the sick to the carriages performed by the priests and sisters.

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There are more women than men amongst the passengers of the white train, and amongst the women are several in the very last stage of consumption. Five or six of the patients, who, hoping against hope, have determined to make a long and wearisome journey, after the doctors have given them up, are too evidently in a dying condition. They cough, they moan pitiably; it seems almost cruel to allow them in their hopeless state to start. One, a woman, reduced to a mere skeleton, stretched on a little bed, has her whole person and her face covered with a white sheet. Whilst she was being conveyed from the waiting-room to the train two emaciated ivory-white hands threw off the sheet, there was a gurgle or rattle in the patient's throat, which caused the bearers of her bed to halt. The poor creature seemed to be dead, so white and motionless was her face and form. A sister, however, rubbed the temples with a sponge saturated with alcohol, and after a few minutes the eyelids were slowly raised, the inanimate limbs moved slightly, and the transfer to an ambulance waggon was accomplished.

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At length the whole of the sick and suffering crew are aboard the train, every care being taken by their devoted attendants to instal them as comfortably as circumstances permit. As is always the case, there was a very large number of utterly infirm and deformed pilgrims, for whose conveyance luggage vans or first-class carriages were provided, supplied with what was required for the long journey.

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On some of the wan, pinched faces of the passengers, when everything was completed, and priests, doctors, and nuns were installed in charge of their *protégés*, a faint ray of hope flickered and even a feeble attempt at a smile. Hands were devoutly clasped, and uplifted eyes testified that a prayer was being murmured to the Virgin or the Saints as the white train with its lugubrious hospital aspect steamed slowly out of the station *en route* for the land of miracles, which, it is to be feared, some of its occupants will not live to reach."

District Nursing Notes.

THE Countess of Warwick presided recently at a meeting at the Town Hall, Dunmow, for the purpose of opening a Nursing Association for the District. Lady Warwick urged the desirability of engaging a properly qualified Nurse for the town; she believed the influence for good of Nursing work throughout the land to be incalculable. Some of the best manhood and womanhood, through the Nurse's care and skill, would be preserved for the happiness of the family and good of the country, and a regenerating influence would follow the steps of the tender-hearted, skilful, sympathising Nurse, which would tarry in the house when she had gone elsewhere on her mission of love and mercy. The sanitary authorities would find that their hands were strengthened by the practical dealing of the Nurse, who would teach the poor how to find out the best means of putting their homes into a sanitary condition. She was bold enough to predict that ministers of religion also would find their work less difficult because of the kindness of the Nurse, which often touched a cord in the heart. There were none who more valued the work of Nursing than the sick poor themselves. A committee of ladies was formed, and it was decided to engage a Nurse, at a cost of about £90 a year.

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A meeting of the Grangemouth Nursing Association was held in the Burgh Buildings recently, when there was a large attendance of members and others interested, presided over by the Marchioness of Zetland, president of the association. The annual reports were considered highly satisfactory. Office-bearers and members of committee were afterwards appointed for the year. It was intimated that Lady Zetland would continue her annual subscription to the association, and that a free house would be provided for the Nurse. The money required having been subscribed, Goodhurst now forms one of a group of seven parishes, which have joined themselves together for the purpose of supplying Nurses to the sick poor and others. These parishes are Matfield, which is regarded as the centre, Paddock Wood, Brenchley, Pembury, Lamberhurst, and Kilndown. Although the number of Nurses for this district is somewhat small, every effort will be made to meet the claims, and the management committee hope to do this more satisfactorily in a few months, when Nurses now under training will be at work in the district. This movement is certainly a very desirable one, and no doubt the inhabitants of all these parishes appreciate the efforts made to provide

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