

tional dwelling, of the use of a caravan, ready for occupation, with nothing to pay! Eagerly embracing the opportunity of escaping from hot, dusty London, we started for Leylands one sunny Saturday in June, carrying no luggage save knapsacks strapped over our shoulders. We took train to Dorking, and on arriving there began the six-mile walk which intervened between us and our destination. We made a gradual ascent through the sweet-scented lanes, sunny hayfields and shady woods until we reached the Van, 700 feet above the sea level, stationed at the bottom of Leylands garden, in the heart of beautiful Surrey, in a district not inaptly called "the English Switzerland." We were met by our hostess, who, after a kindly welcome, led us to the van, and there left us to explore its mysteries. Oh, the delight of poking into corners, each one revealing some "hidden treasure," the wonder growing greater every moment on finding so many articles of use and ornament stowed in such a limited number of cubic feet. Sugar, stamps, bootlaces, tea (*not* of the tea-club variety), note-paper, thread, a cooking stove, nothing had been forgotten that wayfarers' hearts could desire; even a bath was fixed under the floor of the caravan.

"We found that milk, eggs, and other good things could be obtained from the house—the milk was of creamy thickness, and warranted not to contain tubercle bacilli in appreciable numbers.

"In a tent at hand was a table spread with a snowy cloth, and on it a bowl of roses. Here we supped on nectar and ambrosia, in the shape of eggs and bacon cooked by our own fair hands, not without some dearly bought experience as to an explosive mixture of paraffin and methylated spirits (formula not known) which nearly destroyed the beauty of the *chef*. Later we retired to rest in the bunks (of which there are four), provided in the caravan. Free from the fear of the night bell, or the horrors of an early uprising for attendance at a nine o'clock lecture, or other evils of medical civilisation, we slept the sleep of the emancipated, with the soft night air blowing all around us. Only once was our slumber disturbed, and that by our youngest enthusiast, who started from sleep crying 'Wake up, girls,' only to find she had heard the harsh cry of the nightjar, and mistaken it for the night-bell."

The description is so Arcadian, and the prospect it opens up so delightful that I am hoping the coming summer will find the establishment in some "garden fair," or even in a homely field, of a Nurses' caravan similar to the one provided for medical students. Am I too hopeful? Permit me to sign myself,

NIL DESPERANDUM.

LIMITATIONS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—It is, indeed, a relief to take up your admirable journal, as one is sure to find the "woman question" discussed with courage and free from cant. I also had hoped that the attack upon the "Lady Nurse" was a vulgarism of the past, and that it was an undeniable fact that "educated women" on Committees, Boards of Guardians, as Matrons, Sisters, and Nurses, have effected most praiseworthy work in our Hospitals and Infirmaries, and in such administrative and kindly duties had *proved* their usefulness to the State. I am quite at one with your correspondent, "Sarah Allen," and with her greatly deprecate the impossible policy of those persons, either male or female, who are sufficiently egotistical to attempt the impossible in their effort "to dam the onflowing tide

of progress." Nature will have us "move on," so why struggle against her law?

Yours, A. MAUDSON.

NURSES' LONG HOURS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—An interesting discussion has been going on in some of the Irish newspapers on the subject of the long hours of standing which are imposed on Nurses.

One correspondent under the signature of "Mercy" says, in writing to the Editor of the *Irish Times*, "A few years ago you did much good, as also the doctors of the city, in bringing before the public the cause of young girls in shops being allowed to stand so long on their feet. Now will you kindly take some interest in the young people on the Nursing staff of the different Hospitals in Dublin, tenderly brought up, and having to stand for fourteen hours daily, with but a very short time at meals, and twelve hours when on night duty?"

I often wondered that some of our eminent medical men did not look into this matter long before this, and see the harm it does. I have known many young girls who looked forward to making a livelihood, and who took a deep interest in their Hospital work, having to give it up, as their feet failed them from the long hours of standing."

I agree with this correspondent in wondering why doctors have not taken some action in the terribly long hours young Probationers and Nurses have been required to remain on duty.

What reform has been made and what privileges have been obtained in the form of shorter hours and "leave off" has all been done by the Matrons and by Hospital Committees. I have never heard of medical men taking any action in the matter.

Yours sincerely,

A VERY TIRED NURSE.

HOME HOSPITAL ETIQUETTE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I should like your valuable advice on the following questions:—I am the proprietor of a Private Nursing Home—where paying patients are received—and have on more than one occasion lost patients anxious to come to me for nursing, because the operator wished to send them to another Home. Again, sometimes surgeons, who send me their operations, and whose methods I know and carry out to their satisfaction, have been compelled to do the operation in another Home at the wish of the patient or doctor in attendance, greatly to his own inconvenience. Is there any rule about these matters?

I am, yours,

HOME HOSPITAL.

[There is no rule in such matters. The usual plan is that adopted by leading surgeons, by which they satisfy themselves of the efficient nursing in more than one establishment; and then, when directing a patient to enter a Home, they give the addresses in rotation, to the patient, of the Homes in which they have confidence. No monopoly is then expected by the superintendent; but if she performs her duty to patient and doctor thoroughly well she will doubtless obtain confidence and support. In no department in nursing have greater improvements taken place in the last ten years, than in the organisation of Home Hospitals.—ED.]

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