

So much so, that the friar signed not to continue the effort, and pressed the oil on the legs instead.

It was very typical of this most unpractical people that, after all the years they had been accustomed to see extreme unction given, neither infermiera had thought of preparing the feet by removing the stockings before the priest came.

Padre Bernardo now came back to the altar, and Settima took up the patten, and meant to pour water in it; the ewer, however, was empty, so, laughing, she called to one of the convalescents to fill it from the water bottle of the nearest patient. This happened to belong to a very disagreeable woman, who held on to her bottle (Heaven knows the poor creature may have experienced difficulty in getting it filled at night!), but the by-standers were naturally shocked, and murmured "*Si figuri! che donna!*" &c., whilst the water was taken in her despite and poured into the ewer, thence in the patten, wherein the friar laved his fingers.

He then returned close to her, and read more prayers, again crossing her with the holy water, after which he took off his officiating garment and went. Settima carried off the table and candlesticks; the crucifix Padre Bernardo had laid on Carmelita's pillow, and the holy water stood by her bed. The convalescents were sent off to their beds, and quiet, except for the moans and coughs of a few who suffered, and the panting breathing of poor Carmelita, settled down on the great ward.

I stayed by her a little, but she was past speech, though not past comprehension, as she raised her head affirmatively with a flickering smile when I asked her if she was content, at peace.

Settima and her companion Nurse had finished their evening duties, and came with their knitting and the inevitable little oil lamp, to sit beside her. So I left her, with the crucifix beside her, trusting that the hours would be few before the call should come which she had so long and earnestly desired.

May 8th.—Gelsomina passed away quite quietly soon after midnight. Settima said she "died beautifully," *fece una bella morte*, kissing the crucifix to almost the last, whenever they held it to her lips, and without any pain or distress. "She will have already done her purgatory," they said, "and now will be in Paradise, by God's mercy."

Certainly their religion consoles them in their affliction, these simple peasants, even if it does not always cause them to "live high" in their prosperity. But then do other forms of religion do that really, or is it not true with all of us "It is good that I was afflicted" . . . "If there had been a better way than that of the cross, would not Christ have chosen it?"

E. VERE.

British Medical Association Exhibit.

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The AYLESBURY DAIRY CO., of St. Petersburg Place, W., showed their well known Humanized Milk, the value of which has been

abundantly proved both by medical men and Nurses. Its great advantages are that it requires no addition whatever, and only to be warmed, in order to make it ready for use. It is supplied in the vacuum-stoppered bottle, and is most carefully sterilised. Of its theoretical benefit there is no need to speak, because its practical advantages and value have been proved in hundreds of instances.

BILLINGTON BROS., of the Abercrombie Works, Liverpool, showed their special beds, made in pitch-pine, birch and iron, their special beds for epileptics, their ordinary hospital beds with woven-wire spring mattress, and their many other improvements in hospital furniture.

The GORHAM BEDSTEAD COMPANY, of South Place, Moorgate Street, showed their special new invalid bed, which makes all manual lifting of the patient unnecessary, so that the heaviest patient can be moved with ease. We have already referred at length to this valuable invention; and the approval which it elicited from visitors at the British Medical Association, as well as from those who have practically tested its benefits, amply justify all that we have said upon the subject.

BOYD & Co., of 11, Bridge Street, Belfast, exhibited their "Doctor's Ulster," an excellent water-proof and warm garment, admirably adapted for country practitioners. It is fitted with special pockets for obstetrical and urgency cases. The firm also showed the "Eiderdon Rug," which is made of the purest long stapled wool, and therefore possesses the most perfect combination of lightness, softness, and warmth. The "Eiderdon Cape" is a garment which we can cordially recommend to all women, and which should be very valuable for invalids and convalescents.

J. DEFRIES & SONS, Limited, of No. 7, Houndsditch, E.C., showed a great variety of the valuable filters manufactured for Hospitals and private houses by this well-known firm.

W. BOWDEN, of Barnstaple, exhibited some Hygienic Balm Soap of which we had not previously heard, but which we have now tried and found excellent. It contains various valuable antiseptic and fragrant substances, such as terebene, cajuput, and oil of thyme. It is superfatted, and free from any excess of injurious alkali. It is most pleasant to use, and will, we anticipate, prove especially popular amongst invalids.

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