

The Home is quite in the country, twelve miles out of Melbourne; part of it is for Hospital patients, and the rest for paying patients, though all Nurses are allowed to be received *free* in the paying or private rooms. It is a delightful place to enjoy rest after protracted work or for convalescing in. Miss Walker, the Matron, though not a trained Nurse, most thoroughly understands the art of looking after her patients, and the *cuisine* for invalids could not be better understood by anyone.

Nevertheless, one hears a murmur occasionally from that well cared for Institution. "Don't you think it dreadfully dull and quiet," I was asked by a recent patient—a Nurse needing great care, and she got it. I could only answer "It was lovely after the din and turmoil of the city. The pretty views from the sheltered, sunny balconies—where one lay for hours drinking in the fresh sweet air scented with the flowering gorse, which reminded one of the dear old country far away; and filled one with content and made one feel it was good to be alive." Many in Melbourne do not know there is such a home of rest for people unable to pay, or for those in moderate circumstances—and so near Melbourne.

The fees are strikingly modest, the bedrooms are well and prettily furnished, containing from one to four beds each, and the fees for the same from 2s. 6d. to 10s. The latter for Hospital patients. They sleep in a small ward, but have their meals in the general day-room.

The grounds are in their primeval condition, except a small garden round the front and the vegetable garden. This is owing to the scarcity of water; every drop is carefully husbanded, as the water service has not yet found its way out there. The supply comes from the various roofs in wet weather, and is received in several large tanks, over which the Matron keeps a watchful eye. The bath-rooms, nevertheless, are well supplied with hot and cold water.

The atmosphere at the Women's Hospital, and also round the District Nursing Society, seems highly charged with electricity just now. Both Institutions are managed by ladies' committees, who know, or think they know, a great deal more about Nursing than any Sister or Head Nurse, consequently there have been wholesale resignations lately, the Sister and Special Nurse resigning at the Women's Hospital, and, though good salaries are given to both, capable Nurses will be chary about offering their services, particularly as the Matron is not a trained Nurse.

The management, or rather mismanagement, is notorious there. The womanly feeling and discretion of some members of the committee will be apparent when I tell you that in the labour ward they think it an opportune occasion for lecturing unfortunate girls on the error of their ways when the poor creatures are in the throes of approaching maternity. Nurses would like to take them by the shoulders and put them out of a ward which no one but a doctor or Nurse should enter at any time. The District Nursing Society is in a similar plight for Nurses, and this is also brought about by too much ignorant interference in their Nurses' work by the members of the Ladies' Committee.

A new departure has been made in the medical world, the lady doctors of Melbourne having opened the out-patient branch of a new Hospital which is to be opened in St. David's Hall, Latrobe Street. It is

intended to form the nucleus of an institution on the same lines as the "new Hospital for Women" in London, and, like it, is to be officered entirely by women. The object of the promoters is to supply a place where women can be treated by their own sex, and free, as no ordinary Hospital is free, from the necessary attendance of male physicians and from the presence of male students. The first Hospital of the kind, the now flourishing New York Infirmary, was started in 1853 by Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, and began operations in a tiny room in a poor quarter of New York. In 1872 Dr. Garrett Anderson, beginning in an equally humble way, helped to found the New Hospital and London School of Medicine for Women, which now has accommodation for 42 patients, and an income from subscriptions and donations of nearly £4,000. In 1894 there were 535 in-patients received, and 5,833 out-patients treated. The honorary physicians and surgeons are all women, as also are the house surgeon and Nurses.

The present movement in Melbourne has been promoted by the little band of women doctors in the city, assisted by some practical sympathisers. Two ladies have been asked to act as secretary and treasurer respectively, and a little fund has been got together to meet current outlay. As soon as the out-patient department is in going order, the public will be asked to assist in providing funds for a few beds and a house Nurse, so that in-patients may also be received. A committee will then be elected.

The proof that such an Institution is needed is held to be furnished by the number of cases on the books of the Women's Hospital unable to obtain admission.

Inventions, Preparations, &c.

A TWENTIETH CENTURY CHATELAINE.

UNDER this tempting title, Messrs. Maw, Son and Thompson, have brought out a new Aluminium Chatelaine for Nurses, which will certainly prove an attraction not only to up-to-date Nurses, but to those who are anxious to anticipate their century! The special feature of this chatelaine is that it is absolutely aseptic; the whole thing being capable of being put *en bloc* into a saucepan of boiling water, with the exception of the thermometer, which we hope absent-minded Nurses will *not* leave in the case when they place their chatelaine in the saucepan! The case is fully equipped with all the instruments necessary to surgical Nursing—probes, spatulas, scissors, &c., complete; all of the high quality for which Messrs. Maw, Son and Thompson are so well-known. It would be an improvement were the instruments to fit somewhat tighter into the cases, for an energetic surgical Nurse—and some of them are decidedly energetic in their movements—might produce sounds which a patient might resent.

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