

December 16th.

Bianca did not appear! I waited till 8.30, then went in the ward, giving her up. It was not pleasant having to tell the Suora, and the Professor that the pupil had already failed, but the latter merely remarked "Send for the other" (the cousin). Later on Bianca's father brought me a note from her mother. It explained that the girl was quite ill from the fright given by her first realization of death! She had had fever (of course, we always have that in Italy) all night, and screamed in her dreams, and evidently her health was not sufficient; and with regret she must give up the career. She returned the calico and pattern, and this is the end of pupil No. 1.

Happily Signora P— has kindly written to tell me of a girl whom she "respects highly, who fully understands, and who wishes to become a nurse." Again let us hope. "Speriamo" is not needlessly a national exclamation I am thoroughly realising.

E. VERE.

To be continued.

The Johns Hopkins Hospital Alumnæ Association.

AT the recent annual meeting of the Alumnæ Association of the Johns Hopkins Training School, forty-four members, with the incoming class of twenty-eight, were present. Two full business sessions were held in the morning and afternoon, and from eight until ten o'clock the annual dinner was served. The class histories—individual touches of interest, personal or official, in the work each had done—were read. The toasts proposed were the "New Members" and the "New Three Years' Course."

The following report of the corresponding secretary, Miss Helen Conkling Bartlett, will be of interest to our readers.

"As an association, this first cycle of years finds satisfying growth in many of our early aspirations. The Nurses' Club was opened in July, 1895. The club-house, now owned by the Association, is pleasantly situated, and accommodates from twenty to twenty-five residents. Among these are nurses doing private duty, visiting district work, and one who acts as housekeeper. The Nurses' Registry, on a formal foundation, has its head-quarters here, with the housekeeper as registrar. One of the objects of the Association, in which much interest has been taken, is the Sick Nurse Benefit Fund, and this year we prove its value, as we had formerly appreciated the necessity for its establishment."

Our American cousins are evidently learning the value of self-help. We at home seem longer in taking to heart this lesson.

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A Guarantee of Purity.

The Brussels International Exhibition.

THE *Lancet* of August 28th contains an interesting account of the Brussels Exhibition, from which we cull the following information for the benefit of our readers:—

"The military exhibits are very extensive, and several nations give specimens of field ambulances. The Red Cross Association of French Ladies has a large exhibit of methods of training nurses, and of providing help in cases of accidents and in the event of war. Among their equipment, porous flannel shirts are in great demand, especially for the colonies. A convenient shirt for the wounded is also shown. This opens down one side and is fastened with tapes. No buttons are allowed, as it is sometimes difficult to fasten a button over a wound. All furniture is non-porous and easily pulled to pieces. Here also is a model of Dr. Gruby's tent. The metallic framework and the canvas weigh 2120 kilogrammes. The tent contains fourteen beds, and has two small separate compartments at each end. The Belgian Red Cross Society have established a working ambulance in a court close by. It is made by Messrs. Christopher and Unmack, of Copenhagen. The walls are of painted canvas stretched over a wooden framework. As there are two coatings of canvas the wall feels as if it were rather more than an inch thick. The separate rooms for the pharmacy and the surgeons are placed in the middle of the oblong tent. Thus, the far end is well separated from the side where the sick or wounded are brought in. Three beds are ready in the event of any serious cases, and the patients can be kept away from noise or disturbance in the further compartment. A nurse and medical men are in constant attendance, and of course there are stretchers and bearers at hand. It cannot be said that the British section is very remarkable, at all events from a medical and sanitary point of view."

We should have been glad to hear something about the British Nursing Section, or, if this was conspicuous by its absence, why so. Our experience at the International Exhibition at Chicago, and more recently at the Nursing Exhibition in London last year, has served to prove, in spite of all that was formerly said to the contrary, that a nursing exhibition may be both interesting, educational, and entertaining.

"The Belgian manufacturers of surgical instruments show how they apply antiseptic principles. For the operating-room furniture they seem to prefer copper or brass to nickel. Stools for the operating surgeons are made like piano stools, screwing up and down. The seat is a round concave sheet of brass, and the leg is partly brass and partly nickel. The tables, shelves, etc., are, of course, of plate glass. To the operating table can be affixed a carefully cast copper seat, that can be passed under the patient's back, so as to raise the pelvic region while the subject is still lying down. There are also some Belgian pharmaceutical specialities, and a carriage used by the Brussels town authorities for conveying the insane. It is in the shape of a small omnibus, and the front part is divided into two padded compartments. The windows are of special ground glass, of double thickness, and unbreakable."

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