

made concerning a private lunatic asylum at Peckham. The internal management of this asylum *may* be all that is desirable; but it surely is, in the highest degree, unfitting that the *gamins* of the neighbourhood are able, by climbing the trees, or getting on to the neighbouring roofs—which it is stated that they do in companies of twenty at a time—to observe all that goes on in the wards of the asylum. The older people of the neighbourhood are also said to crowd round the windows, fifty or one hundred often being present at once, while the inmates of the asylum are shouting "Murder!" "Police!" and affording other entertainment to a sensational public.

A *Star* man visited the asylum, hoping to find out the truth of the complaints which had been made to his paper. Dr. Stocker, the proprietor of the Home, was out; but he was told he could see the superintendent. The superintendent was not complimentary to the *Star*, and inquired: "Since when was the *Star* made a Court of Justice?" On its being suggested to him that it was surely not desirable that boys should be able to look into the windows of the cells, "Boys!" said the superintendent, with a pure touch of scorn. "Bah! they're no better than monkeys. I had one in here yesterday to administer justice to him." Administer justice! "Since when did Peckham Asylum become a Court of Justice?" inquired the *Star* man innocently. At this, we are told, the superintendent sprang to his feet, white with anger.

"That'll do!" he shouted. "I've had enough of you. If I have any more of your insolence I'll have you kicked out! You can go. I won't say another word."

This is scarcely a courteous way to receive a representative of the press, or a happy manner of testifying to the excellence of the methods of management of the officials of the asylum in question.

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Nicola Tesla, the famous electrical savant, says that by the legal intermarriage of only those physically perfect, the careful observance of the laws of health, and the new discoveries for the detection of microbes and bacilli, the average age of man can be brought up to one hundred years.

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A young and scientific physician claims to have made a wonderful discovery in connection with the X rays, which is that an ordinary photograph may be subjected to the Röntgen process, and it will disclose the internal organs, the same as would be the result were the actual body placed before the rays. A man residing far from a physician can, it is said, now send in his photograph, and from it the physician can develop each organ separately, and ascertain whether it is diseased or not.

The Sixteenth Congress of the Sanitary Institute opens at Leeds on the 14th inst., and will extend over five days. Papers of the highest interest are to be read by experts, and many social gatherings are arranged. The members will be received by the Lord Mayor of Leeds in the Town Hall at 12.30 p.m. on Tuesday, and he will also open the Health Exhibition on the evening of the same day. Amongst the principal papers to be read and discussed we notice—"School Hygiene," "Purification of Sewage," "Fever Hospital Construction," "Baths and Washhouses," "The Smoke Nuisance and its Abatement"; and in the Ladies' Section—"Our Milk Supply and Some of its Dangers," "The Education of the Speaking Voice," and "Sanitary Aspects of Gardening as an Occupation for Women."

Our Foreign Letter.

NURSING AT SEA.



It was one 4th of May, at six o'clock in the morning, when the sun was just beginning to appear above the horizon,

that we steamed out of the harbour of Zanzibar, in one of the fine ships belonging to the Messageries Maritimes Company. The town still lay enveloped in the mist so familiar to residents in the island, which, while softening down its defects, and adding greatly to its charm from an artistic point of view, is yet responsible for much of the malaria which haunts the island, and from time to time claims as its victims one and another of England's noblest sons and daughters.

The fine harbour, in which men-of-war of several nations lay at anchor, the Sultan's Palace and Clock Tower (since destroyed), the spire of the Cathedral, and other familiar landmarks receded quickly from view, as did also the beautiful green banks of the island, with its characteristic clove trees, coming right down to the water's edge, its feathery palms, and handsome mango trees. But there was little time to think of all these (to me) familiar beauties, for my patient demanded all my attention. I was coming home with a nurse, a member of the Universities' Mission, who had arrived in the hospital from up country on the previous Wednesday, so ill that the doctor at once said that if she lived until Friday, the day that the mail left, she must go home; it was her one chance, but he was not hopeful of her living to reach Aden.

I had nursed under all sorts of conditions, but never at sea before, and it is an experience I certainly do not desire to repeat. So far as was possible, we certainly were in good conditions. The ship was a fine one; the cabin, containing only two berths, was more spacious and airy than we should have had on an English ship under similar circumstances. The cooking was of the best, and the servants attentive and obliging. The sea, which was blue with the blueness which one only sees in the Indian Ocean, was also as smooth as glass. So there was much to be thankful for; but, even with these conditions, a ship is not the place in which one would choose to nurse a patient who is desperately ill. To begin with, the berths are, of course narrow, and not too comfortable. It is

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