

lead asylum nurses to take a high view of the vocation which they have chosen. The pamphlets are published by Messrs. Potter, Batten and Davies, 23, The Pavement, Clapham, S.W. We hope they will have the wide circulation they undoubtedly deserve.

The body of a child has been found in the asylum grounds at Menston, Leeds, with its throat cut and both arms missing. A coroner's jury returned a verdict to the effect that the child had been murdered, but there was no evidence to show by whom. A nurse at the asylum is in custody on a charge of concealment of birth. It is to be hoped that the unfortunate woman will not appear in the dock in nurses' uniform.

We recently reported a novelty in hospitals, in Belgium, in the form of a hospital train. Now the Brussels authorities are experimenting on a new form of portable hospital. It is stated that a ward containing 12 beds can be packed into a furniture van, and erected by three workmen in a few hours at the cost of £10 per bed. We wish we could hear of some English experiments in the same direction. We shall do well to look to our laurels, and beware lest we get stuck in the mud of self complacency, and of satisfaction with past achievements. America is already showing the way as to nursing organization. Will Belgium outstrip us in hospital architecture? The walls of the portable hospital are composed of leather cardboard, while the beds fold back against them.

It is interesting to notice in the report of the Toronto "Nursing at Home Mission," which, beginning with one nurse, has now eight upon its staff, that during the past year night nursing has been undertaken to a greater extent than in previous years. The Society works free of charge amongst the poor and destitute, and to some extent amongst respectable mechanics.

The *Daily Chronicle*, which is always well-informed of women's work, says: "Miss Clara Barton, of the American Red Cross Society, who lately returned to Washington from distributing relief among the 'reconcentrados' in Cuba, speaks favourably of the treatment she received from the Spanish officials. She found General Blanco 'a kindly-looking man, a genial, gentle man who meets you with a warm grasp of the hand.' He was anxious to assist the 'reconcentrados' to cultivate land; but not much had been done in that direction. It is probably a case of the proverbial good intentions. Miss Barton found the so-called hospitals in a disgraceful condition, and says that the people suffered more from want of water than from want of food."

"The Red Cross emissary pays a compliment to the Governor of Matanzas, who, she says, 'is one of the finest men I have ever met. All these governors are Cubans. General Blanco hasn't a Spanish officer under him. The Governor of Matanzas has an elegant house, perfectly appointed. He showed me every courtesy, setting apart rooms in his house that would be at my service at any time. Everywhere we were received most cordially by the officials, and when I go back I shall expect the same reception from them again, even in the event of war.' Miss Barton made it clear to start with, that she met the Spaniards as 'Red Cross Men,' and that she 'did not come to speak for America as an American,' but from the Red Cross for humanity."

COMMANDER SAMPSON, the Naval Commander-in-Chief of the United States, has received an offer from the Mother Superior of the St. Mary Immaculate Convent to place the convent buildings at the Government's disposal in case of war for use as hospitals. The services of the sisters are offered as nurses. Commander Sampson, in replying to the Mother Superior, thanked her for her "most generous and patriotic tender," and promised her that he would accept it if necessary.

We admire the patriotism of American women; all the same they must, we think, be on their guard that their zeal does not run away with their discretion. It is related that more than thirty Brooklyn women met recently to take steps for the organization of a Women's Auxiliary Corps of the National Guard of the State of New York, so as to be in readiness to nurse the sick and wounded members of Brooklyn regiments in case of war. Nurses, like Rome, are not made in a day; and if the services of women as nurses are to be of value in time of war, they must receive a thorough training in times of peace. It is difficult to imagine a greater incubus to an army in active service than a body of women, full of good intentions, and enthusiastically zealous, but absolutely ignorant of the most elementary duties connected with the work which they have undertaken. It is proposed that the members of the corps shall wear plain black dresses, with the American flag embroidered on the right sleeves, and aprons, cuffs, and caps, of black muslin, the caps to have a bow of American ribbon on one side.

The chief benefit of uniform is that by adopting a light and washing costume the presence of dirt, and consequently of microbes, may be immediately detected, and the bare idea of cuffs, which will be in close approximation to wounds, being of any colour but the purest white causes a thrill of horror to all who understand the danger of so insanitary a proceeding.

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