

Just at present nurses, especially in the States, are far too busy to disappear into the *Ewigkeit*, and we should consider it distinctly unpatriotic of them if they attempted to "reach the purest heaven," excepting along the road of every-day duty.

In an interesting interview in *Home Notes* with Sister Katherine, of Plaistow, with whom the writer went the rounds, she says—

"During our drive Sister Katherine told me of the never-ending demand for food, clothing, blankets, flannel, calico, and every other necessary of life for these poor people. 'People say they are not so poor as in the slums of London,' she said, 'but "London over the Border," as they call it, is far poorer than London itself, for here the richest inhabitants are small tradespeople, and nearly all the rest are depending on weekly or even daily wages. It is a dead level of poverty with no one to help.'

"Then she went on to tell me of a secondhand clothes shop one lady had started in connection with the work, and of the way it was appreciated. Even the evening bodices of fine ladies sometimes found purchasers, and one ingenious soul, a laundress, discovered a new use for them.

"'Just the right thing for washing in,' she said, 'so cool and comfortable,' and she bore one off in triumph for the purpose. Fruit, flowers, vegetables, any and everything that is of any possible use in the homes of the poor are gladly received by Sister Katherine. Bicycles, too, for the nurses are always wanted, for they have long distances to go to their patients, and omnibuses are few and far between."

It is wonderful how the poor adapt clothing to their uses. But the size of the waist "worn" by "fine ladies" in evening attire might, we should imagine, prove somewhat of a drawback to the "wash-lady." A fashionable *costumière* lately informed us that the waist varied according to the function. A customer might be permitted to breathe in the morning in a bodice measuring 22 inches; for carriage exercise in the afternoons a waist of 20 inches was permissible; but the evening bodice could not be permitted to measure more than 18 inches round the waist. As for a "shapeless mass" owing to a girth of 27 inches—well, she had no use for such a customer.

MEDICINE and the allied sciences are to take great prominence at the Paris Exhibition in 1900, and the *British Medical Journal* reports that "In Class 112, that allotted to the *assistance publique*, and organised under the presidency of Senator Theophile Roussel, will be housed in the space allotted in 1889, to the section of the liberal arts, many sections of interest to the medical profession (2) Protection and help during infancy; general organisation for protection and help during infancy: protection and help for the infant before birth by extending the same to the mother, such as asylums, work-rooms, maternity societies, private and public lying-in hospitals, convalescent homes; protection and help for the child after birth; *crèches*, institutions for children in early life, for foundlings, deserted children, orphans, and those

morally abandoned; help for sick and weakly children, dispensaries, hospitals, infirmaries, and the like. (3) Help for adults: for those able to work: clubs, labour exchanges, bureaus, night shelters, mendicity societies; for the sick: help at home, gratuitous medical attendance and medicine, hospitals, including regulations, organizations, medical and surgical service, special service for contagious diseases; for the aged: asylums and country farms, infirmaries. (4) Help for the insane: public and private asylums, infirmaries, *Maisons de Santé*, help by means of field colonies; special institutions for epileptic and feeble-minded children; educational methods (8) Staffs of charitable establishments; training schools for nurses, both male and female."

It is with the greatest regret we learn that Nurse Higgins has died of plague at Hong Kong, where that terrible disease is again raging.

News has been received from Bombay that at the village of Garshanker the inhabitants assailed the police from the housetops with brickbats, and finally the police, becoming angry and uncontrollable, fired upon the rioters, killing nine and wounding others. This seems unnecessarily severe treatment for the throwing of brickbats, which, though annoying and unjustifiable, scarcely merits punishment by death.

The outbreak of plague in Calcutta is attributed to the importation of rats, in steamers and trains, from Bombay. This theory is based upon the fact that large numbers of dead rats have been found in the railway and steamship go-downs. The Lieutenant-Governor has stated that with the aid of the hot weather and the sanitary rules which will be enforced he has every reason to hope that the disease will be speedily stamped out.

In connection with the theory that the plague has been conveyed to Calcutta by rats, the extracts from the autobiography of the Emperor Jehangir, during an epidemic at Agra, some 250 years ago, and which are at present going the rounds of the medical papers, will be of interest:

"The daughter of the deceased Asaf Khan, who is in the house of Abdullah Khan, son of the Khan I. Aazam, told me a strange and wonderful tale. I made particular inquiries into its truth, and write it on account of its strangeness. She said that one day in the court-yard of her house, she saw a mouse falling and rising in a distracted state. It was running about in every direction, after the manner of drunkards, and did not know where to go. She said to one of the female slaves, "Take it up by the tail and throw it before the cat. The cat, delighted, jumped up from its place, and seized it in its mouth, but immediately dropped it and showed aversion to it. By degrees an expression

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