

Items of Interest.

It is reported that the Civil Commissioner of Queenstown, Cape Colony, has been harnessing hard labour convicts to gravel carts, instead of employing quadrupedal motive power, and a newspaper controversy in the "Representative" is the result. The one party holds that the practice is brutal; the other that this is "just the sort of work the convicts require to keep them in their place." Was Trooper Peter Halket so far wrong after all?

THE natives of the West Coast of Sumatra object to be vaccinated; they still make offerings to the small-pox devil. The heart and liver of fowls and buffaloes are mixed with yellow rice and other ingredients, placed in the model of a full rigged ship, and carried in procession, and finally launched into the sea.

THE *Hong Kong Telegraph* says: A good deal of annoyance has been caused by the shipment to Canton of the corpses of men, women, and children, who have succumbed to plague in Hong Kong. All sorts of devices are resorted to, to get the bodies out of Hong Kong, the latest being the stowing of the bodies in large packing-cases, which are labelled "China-ware." On arrival at Canton the Customs officers examine all goods that are dutiable, and as china-ware is not included in the free list this new-fashioned "china-ware" has, of course, been stopped in transit, and as, when the hitch occurs, no consignees come forward to claim the "goods," the trouble and expense connected with the disposal of the bodies devolve upon the Chinese Authorities. How many bodies have been smuggled into Canton and Honam there is no telling, but judging from the gossip of the tea-houses and bazaars the number is considerable.

At this time of the year when Nurses' minds lightly turn to thoughts of holidays, the question of dress materials becomes more important than usual to them; and from practical experience we can cordially commend to their notice the serges and dress materials manufactured by Egerton Burnett, Limited, of Wellington, Somerset. By writing to that firm, they can obtain a book of patterns and full particulars as to self-measurement. The book of patterns which we have before us, at present, is specially devised for Nurses' requirements, and to a large extent composed of washing materials for dresses, aprons, caps, and so forth, whilst, in addition to these, there is a most excellent assortment of the special Royal serges for which the firm is so justly celebrated. We have been especially pleased with the waterproof cloaking manufactured by this firm, and which is admirably suited for Nurses' outdoor cloaks. It is made in various shades of grey, black and blue from 4s. 9d. a yard, while the ordinary Royal serges from 1s. 11d and the Superior Dress materials from 1s. 6d. are remarkable value for the money. It is noticeable that this Firm make up nurses' cloaks to any style desired; those who have employed them state that the smartness of the tailoring equals the value of the materials. In consequence of this, the dresses and cloaks not only wear, but always look, well; and, indeed, the only objection which we have ever heard raised to them is that they never seem to wear out. The materials for cycling costumes are in great variety and in excellent taste.

Outside the Gates.

AN APPEAL.

I AM extremely sorry to learn from Mrs. E. J. Goodeve, the Treasurer of the National Union of Women Workers, which now acts as the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, that the funds of the society are very low. "So low indeed," says Mrs. Goodeve, "that I have been obliged to borrow £100 to keep any balance in the bank. The payment of rent, gas and other quarterly bills and the salaries for another quarter have had to be paid, and we have at present, for the first time, a deficit. It would much help our funds if you will kindly send us 1s. or more and try to obtain for us at least one new subscriber of 5s. per annum. As our work extends, central expenses necessarily increase.

It is in the belief that our work is of real value and importance to those who are engaged in various branches of social and philanthropic work that I venture to ask you to make this effort on behalf of the Union. It ought not to be impossible for us to raise £1,000 a year, and if this were done we could extend our work in many necessary directions, which at present we have to decline to attempt on account of our straightened means."

The objects of the National Union as defined in its Constitution are:—

- 1.—To promote sympathy of thought and purpose among the women of Great Britain and Ireland.
- 2.—To promote the social, civil, moral, and religious welfare of women.
- 3.—To focus and redistribute information likely to be of service to women workers.
- 4.—To federate women's organisations, and to encourage and assist the formation of local councils and unions of women.

The readers of the *NURSING RECORD*, I know, value the work the Union is doing for women in this country; they would not be readers of this journal unless they were in sympathy with a forward and self-respecting policy for women, and what we value we are always ready to pay for in hard cash. I don't often beg, but I am inspired to do so in this very good cause, with hope for a hearty response. *I want every reader to send me one shilling towards this £1,000, or better still to become a member of the National Union of Women Workers.* I shall be desperately disappointed if I don't find the letter box crammed full of postal orders for that modest sum for many days to come. Of course if any of my readers feel very generously disposed I shall be overjoyed to receive any additional sum they care to send. All money received will be at once acknowledged and forwarded to Mrs. Goodeve.

EDITOR.

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