

was brought up before the Lurgan Guardians recently, when Dr. Darling, medical officer, stated in reply to an assertion that a rule of the Local Government Board prohibited children being carried out into the fresh air they required, that "there was no order of the Local Government Board against airing children," but he had no power to compel pauper inmates to take them out, and there were only one nurse and a probationer for ninety patients. A committee was appointed to consider recommendations by Dr. Darling in favour of improved ventilation, and the opening of a properly equipped Children's Ward.

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MISS HELEN GOULD'S generous and substantial aid to the soldiers of the American army still continues. Her latest contribution of 25,000 dols. for the relief of the troops at Camp Wikoff is supplementary to her 100,000 dols. gift to assist in defraying the expenses of the war at its outset. Since then she has not only made several donations to help the sick and wounded soldiers, but also has generously contributed to the maintenance and comfort of needy families of soldiers and sailors everywhere. Miss Gould is happy in having both the will and the power to render such generous assistance.

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ONE of the first women in New York State, says a contemporary, to respond to the call for volunteer nurses at the opening of the Civil War, was Maria N. Abbey, who is now living, at the age of eighty-one, in Hart Street, Brooklyn.

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IN response to a call from Theodore Cuyler, in the pulpit of Plymouth Church, during the absence of Henry Ward Beecher, Mrs. Abbey responded. She was the only woman in the congregation who agreed to go as an Army nurse. It was the Sunday following the attack on Fort Sumter that the famous call for women volunteers was made, and, contrary to the protests of friends, on May 1st, 1861, Mrs. Abbey, together with Miss M. E. Powell, Mrs. Heusted, Mrs. Shepard and Miss Welch, of New York, started for the seat of war.

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UPON their arrival in Washington, and having been with some reluctance accepted by the Surgeon-General of the Army, they were installed in the old Union Hotel, in Georgetown, from which the Confederates had fled, and which was afterwards known as the First Union Hospital.

The first soldier brought to the ward assigned to Mrs. Abbey was George Bugbee, who she says is still living somewhere in Connecticut.

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MRS. ABBEY passed through the battlefield after the first battle of Bull Run, and she relates her experience now with the smallest details, so

deeply are they impressed upon her memory. The agonizing and revolting scenes are never to be forgotten by her, she says. The strain, mental and physical, was so great that finally Mrs. Abbey, ill and exhausted, was forced to yield and leave the hospital, but, knowing how much there was to be done, she determined to keep in touch with the work, so she leased a fine old house in Washington, where the convalescent soldiers could enjoy their furloughs. Among her lodgers and visitors were many men prominent in the war, and in one of her rooms George Wilkes, of "The Spirit of the Times," wrote his famous account of the battle of Bull Run, which he would not trust to mail or messenger to deliver, but carried to New York himself.

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"I WONDER," said Mrs. Abbey recently, "if the young women who are so anxious to go to Cuba have the slightest conception of what it means to be an Army Nurse? Our Government has far better means and appliances for caring for the sick and wounded than it had in the Rebellion, and the men and women who are chosen will do their work nobly, but let the woman who goes be sure she is fitted for the undertaking."

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WE regret to hear that Miss Matilda Brown, who has done such good work in the English Hospital at Zanzibar, and on the mainland at Magila, has been seriously ill, and has been invalided home. Miss Brown was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Bristol, and holds the three years' certificate of that institution. She subsequently worked for two years as Charge Nurse at the South Western Fever Hospital, and in 1894 joined the Universities' Mission to Central Africa. She returned to England last year for a well earned holiday and much needed rest, and only went back to Africa in the Spring of this year. It must, therefore, be a deep disappointment to her to be invalided home so soon. It is to be hoped that eventually she will be allowed to return. There is a saying that those who have once drunk African waters are never satisfied until they drink them again, and it is well-known that Africa drags continually at those who have once learnt to love her and to know and appreciate her people. No one is able to explain quite wherein the charm lies; they only know it draws, as with a magnet, those who have once felt it.

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THOSE who have been in Africa say that there is a warm-heartedness and kindness about people in Africa, both European and native, which they learn to take as a matter of course, and that when they return home the frigidity of their acquaintance strikes them as comic until they begin to reflect that it is only "English ways." There is plenty of genuine warmth down below.

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