

THE tour is in no way a commercial speculation. Mr. Wells tells us that being the Hon. Secretary of a Cottage Hospital, and his wife being a nurse, they have always invited a few nurses to join them on their visits to the Continent. This year some of his old friends are unable to go, and there is, therefore, room in the party for a few other ladies. Two Hospital Matrons will be of the party.

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THE co-operative tours organized by Dr. Lunn and Mr. Connop Perowne, are also well known, and travellers can in this way see Palestine, Egypt, Athens, North Africa, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, the Baltic, and other places most reasonably. Nurses desiring information as to these tours should write to the Secretary, 5, Endsleigh Gardens, Euston, London, N.W.

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ONE of our readers demurs from the sound professional advice given by Miss Marion E. Smith, Chief Nurse (Matron) of the Philadelphia Hospital, to a graduating class of nurses, and which appeared in our last issue. Miss Marion Smith says: "Let me ask you to help to discover those nurses so-called who, without a diploma (as a written guarantee that they have graduated from a reputable school), are in the ranks of private nursing. Women who, to my knowledge, have been dismissed from a training school for grave reasons, and who ask and receive twenty dollars a week for their services, and who masquerade as graduates, going as far as to wear the full uniform, including the cap, of the school they do not represent, and which would not employ them in any capacity. I regret to say they succeed occasionally in deceiving a physician so completely that they nurse for him alone, and are sent directly to the patient's house, and when this happens, no one is likely to suspect the fraud being practised upon the public, the patient, or the doctor."

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WE reprint the paragraph because it proves that even in the States where nursing is so much better organized than at home, the hybrid nurse competes unfairly with the thoroughly qualified woman, and because we commend most warmly, the plucky attitude of the Matrons of American Training Schools in drawing public attention to the weak spots in their professional armour. Here in London at least one third of the nursing in private houses is allotted to women who have no professional qualifications worth the name, and in the present chaotic condition of affairs, certificated nurses are very helpless, so long as hospitals send out half-trained women, and doctors employ them.

The Hospital World.

"THE PINK OF PERFECTION."

WHENEVER we visit a new place, we make straight for the hospital, and usually receive prompt reward by making the acquaintance of an earnest worker—the Matron. Finding ourselves lately in the charming little town of Bury St. Edmunds, beautified by the unique ruins of its magnificent Abbey, and its square red Georgian houses, we set off to find the Suffolk General Hospital, which is airily situated on rising ground just outside the town.

We were glad that a keen east wind had made the dust fly, as we ascended a flight of speckless steps leading to the front door. It would have gone to our heart to have left foot prints on their surface, and again, when the door opened, and we were courteously invited to step within, the highly-polished oak floor in hall and corridors, caused one a twinge of envy, that in the domestic sphere it is impossible to attain the exquisite cleanliness which has rightly acquired the distinction of "surgical." Anyway, we stepped carefully over the glassy surface, and presently found ourselves in "Matron's Room," proudly occupied by Matron's cat, or, shall we say, one of her cats?

Needless to say, our welcome was charming, and we were presently shown over this beautifully appointed and kept hospital, the wards of which have been most thoroughly re-floored and the walls tiled in celebration of the Queen's Jubilee of 1887. Here we found the wards most exquisitely kept, and the fitments very much up to date, "looking-glass" floors of polished oak, speckless walls, and the nursing appliances of glass and metal, all shining bright; and another test of good management was to be found in the bright, busy, and neat nursing staff; it is not an easy task to combine these three attributes, but at the Suffolk Hospital, under the able personal management of Miss Mary Harris the "pink of perfection" is evidently aimed at, and is apparently attained.

We were also shown the Operating Theatre, which is far above the average, and fitted with a very fine new table, given by Dr. Lucas, and other modern glass and metal appliances. But the medical and nursing staff are ambitious on matters professional, and an effort is to be made to thoroughly equip this department with the most up-to-date and scientific surgical arrangements, and we have no doubt that upon our next visit we shall find the task accomplished.

The nursing in this hospital is very thorough and practical, and is highly esteemed in the surrounding district.

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