

The Mayor of Swansea (Mr. Richard Martin) recently formally opened the Victoria Nurses' Home erected in connection with the Swansea General Hospital, at a cost of £1,800, in honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. During the proceedings it was stated that Mme. Patti (Baroness Cederström), who had given four concerts in past years for the benefit of the hospital, had consented to give another concert for the same object in the first week of August.

A new hospital for children has been opened at Redruth by Mr. J. Passmore Edwards, who had previously given £400 towards the erection of the building before the completion of the hospital. Messrs. Trownsons, of Redruth, sent a cheque for £200 towards the furnishing.

Mr. Alexander Moncur, jute spinner and manufacturer, Dundee, has given £10,000 to establish a hospital for the cure of consumption in Dundee. Another gentleman, whose name is not disclosed, offers £500 for five years if the scheme is started immediately. The gifts were accepted at a meeting of citizens yesterday. Mr. Moncur is an ex-chief magistrate of Dundee, and has already made some handsome gifts to the city.

It is officially announced that one suspected case of plague occurred at Alexandria on the 4th inst., and one real case on the 17th inst. Both the patients were Greeks, but it is not known whence they came. Measures have been taken at Alexandria for the medical inspection of all persons leaving, and the disinfection of the soiled linen of the crews of ships.

The *Daily Mail* says:—Should Egypt be devastated by plague, the religious heads of the Moslem community in Cairo must bear all the responsibility.

Last March the British authorities brought under the notice of the Egyptian Government the dangers which the country incurred through the pilgrimage to Mecca, where plague had long been raging, and recommended that the Egyptian pilgrimage be stopped.

The Moslem dignitaries, however, would have none of this. At a meeting of the Egyptian Ministerial Council, on March 14th, they attended and announced that they did not see their way, in consequence of their religious tenets, to support the proposed stoppage of further pilgrimages from Egypt to Mecca.

Accordingly, the pilgrimage took place as usual, with the result that might have been expected.

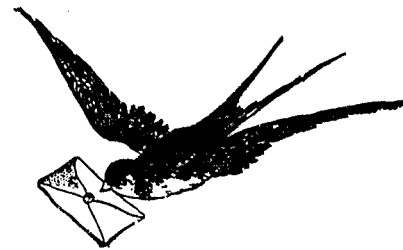
After virtually extinguishing the plague at Kurra-che, the authorities are now confronted by a serious epidemic of cholera, which yesterday alone caused 64 deaths.

The medical department of the Johns Hopkins University have sent a party to Manila to study the tropical diseases there during the hot season. It includes Dr. Simon Flexner and Dr. L. F. Barker.

The Tsaritsa has given the funds to build a Hospital in Crete, of which Prince George has recently attended the opening.

Our Foreign Letter.

LETTER FROM A NURSE'S NOTE-BOOK WHILE WORKING IN CENTRAL ASIA.



DEAR EDITOR,
—It is a long time since I sent you an account from my note-book. I should like to tell my fellow nurses about a little girl whom I attended in

1891. Azizi was her name, which means "loved one"; aged 13½ years; she was brought to the hospital by her mother and father about 10 o'clock p.m. closely covered up, with only two pieces of net let into her Bulkah for her just to see through, as she was a high-cast girl. After her betrothal at the age of seven she met with an accident and burnt her hand, and not knowing how to attend to it, the whole four fingers had united together, and the thumb was fixed to the centre of the hand. The poor parents asked for medicine to cure it, as their little daughter would soon be ready to be married, and if it was known that her hand was deformed the parents of the man would never allow him to marry her, and that would bring everlasting shame on their heads. The accident had been done over three years, and whenever her parents heard that any relation of the young man's was coming to pay them a visit, they locked the poor young girl up in a room, or sent her away to a friend until the visit was over. Now she was coming of age they could conceal it no longer, for the go-between would be sure to come shortly from his people to see if she had grown into a beautiful young woman, and report on all her charms, or defects. I told the parents no medicine could cure the hand. The only thing was an operation, and that she would have to come again in three months time, when the lady doctor returned who had to go into the Punjab on business, and on her returning she was snowed up at Checoti.

But there were two male doctors at the hospital and they would do it for her. They cried with one voice—"Toba Toba Bilkel Neh—Repent, repent" (no, never should she look on a strange man's face).

So the family went away. The next day they came again and begged me to operate. I told them I was only a nurse, not a doctor. After two hours—they cried, they begged—they followed me in and out of the hospital. At last I said, "Well, I will try and see what I can do if you will leave the child with me for a week."

"Oh! no, that cannot be."

"Well, then, I cannot help you," so again off they went.

Back again the next day, they would let her stay on condition that they could bring her own food, and two of her family could always stay with her, as my food would defile her, and that I never went near them when they were eating. I agreed to all, on one condition, that they gave me their hands to clean, and that they never once touched the girl's hand after I had attended to it until I gave them permission.

Oh! the crying of the mother when I scrubbed the child's hand with turpentine, and washed it with soap and

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