

DR. GEORGE R. FOWLER, Chief Surgeon of the Seventh Army Corps, pays some sincere compliments to women nurses, in the *Brooklyn Medical Journal*:—

"THE epidemic of typhoid fever referred to roused everybody to the necessity for a trained nursing force, and, as it seemed to be impossible to obtain male nurses, and, furthermore, the signing of the protocol having made it more than probable that the Seventh Corps, which had been organized especially for the campaign against Havana, would now go to Cuba as an army of occupation, rather than as an army of invasion, it became still more evident that the services of women nurses would be desirable, and even absolutely essential, in order to avoid a large death-rate from the prevailing typhoid infection. Under these circumstances the surgeon-general promptly responded to a request to send a force of women trained nurses. These were forwarded as fast as they could be secured.

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No one, realizing the conditions as they existed before the arrival of these women nurses and witnessing their work, could fail to admit that the low death-rate among our typhoid cases at Jacksonville was largely due to care bestowed upon them in the unfaltering devotion to duty shown by these loyal women. Occasionally an incompetent or otherwise undesirable person was discovered, and here and there an adventuress, with no well-founded claim as a member of the trained nursing fraternity, would succeed in eluding the vigilance of Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee, the efficient acting assistant surgeon in the surgeon-general's office, who had charge of this branch of the work at Washington. These, however, were quickly weeded out. Sometimes a drone would appear. It was almost invariably shown that when a nurse was given greatly to fault-finding at some temporary and unavoidable discomfort in camp life (for these lived in tents, like the rest of us) it was evidence one need not scratch very deep to find of a half-trained graduate of some obscure training school, if, indeed, she did not turn out to be an out-and-out pretender.

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It seems to be the unanimous verdict of all army officers and soldiers who were permitted to observe the character of the work done by the female trained nurses in the late war, or to realize by personal experience the unswerving devotion of these helpers, that for true nobility of purpose and unflinching adherence to duty they are not outclassed even by the brave men who stormed the heights of San Juan Hill or attacked and silenced the blockhouses of El Caney.

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



At the annual meeting of the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund, held at the Mansion House, the Lord Mayor announced the total receipts for the year ending October 31st as £53,504 11s. 1d. This is an increase of £13,000 over last year's receipts. The date of the next Hospital Sunday was fixed for June 24th, 1900. Four vacancies on the Council were filled by the Earl of Meath, Sir Trevor

Lawrence, Mr. Alderman Bell, and Mr. J. R. Cooper.

St. Thomas's Hospital is asking for public support. The treasurer points out in his appeal that last year the contributions and legacies to the metropolitan hospitals were distributed as follows: To those lying north of the Thames, £573,825; to those lying south of the Thames, £83,026. The striking difference here shown is owing (1) to the comparative absence of wealth on the south side of the river; (2) to the lack of personal acquaintance on the part of the wealthy residents in the West End of London with the dire necessities of this district.

The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths has given £30 to the building fund of the Central London Ophthalmic Hospital.

Amongst the latest contributions to the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund for London is an annual subscription of £100 from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Board of Management of the British Home and Hospital for Incurables most earnestly plead for additional funds to enable them to relieve the many demands made on behalf of suffering incurables throughout the United Kingdom. By means of this charity the home at Streatham, sheltering seventy-six inmates, is maintained, and 320 Pensioners are in receipt of £20 per annum. Cheques and Postal Orders to be crossed "Barclay and Co." and sent to R. G. Salmund, Secretary, 72, Cheapside, E.C.

At Skipton, a new Diamond Jubilee cottage hospital has just been opened. It is domestic in style, accommodates thirteen patients and four nurses, and has cost £2,740.

An Exchange Plymouth telegram says that a suspicious case of plague developed two days ago on the *Ballarat*. The victim is a native fireman.

The British barque *Ravenscourt*, from Panama, recently arrived at Port Townsend (Washington States) short handed, four of the crew having died of yellow fever on the voyage and been buried at sea. While at Panama the captain and mate and three sailors were stricken with the disease and sent on shore, and a few days after leaving Panama three sailors died. Later on in the voyage others of the crew were attacked, and another seaman died of the fever. Owing to the deaths and sickness in the crew, difficulty was experienced in the navigation of the vessel. The *Ravenscourt*, on arrival at Port Townsend, was placed in strict quarantine.

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