

plague was first introduced into Australia by rats, travelling in a ship from Mauritius.

A non-combatant correspondent of the *Scalpel* says "Sir William MacCormac is at the front, which is 'tidings of comfort and joy' to the British Army and Nation, because — A learned judge gave the following advice to a young Q.C., who had just been appointed judge in the Bombay Presidency. 'Give your judgments, but don't give your reasons, for your judgment will probably be right and your reasons for same wrong,' so I stop at the word because, and I won't give my reasons why the great British public are so elated at the advent to the front of Sir W. MacCormac. Briefly, there are 280 army surgeons engaged in the war, some with regiments, in the thick of bullets, and others, at fever hospitals, stationary hospitals, base hospitals, and they are all delighted to be able to act as dressers and carry out other minor details, whilst the art of military surgery is taught them by the civilians, sent out by a parental government, to take care of Tommy and the Officers of the Queen.

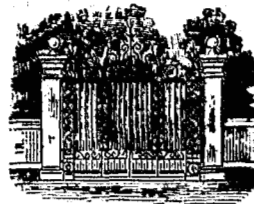
At the dinner of the British Gynæcological Society, London, the Director-General of the Army Medical Department said:—"That he was responsible for sending out the civilians, as it was at his suggestion Sir W. M. was asked to go out, and it was not intended, &c." So, of course, it is *no reflection on the Army Medical Officers* to have Mr. Treves, Mr. Makins, and Sir W. M. performing operations, extracting bullets, &c., work which under ordinary circumstances, as in Afghanistan, the Soudan, and India would be performed by the ordinary army-surgeon. Well, it all depends on how you look at these kind of things. The medical history of the war will soon be written, for Sir W. M. can send full accounts of the hospitals, the operations, and the wounds to the medical journals, as *he is doing to the Lancet*, whilst the Surgeon-General, and the Colonels, the Majors, and Captains of the Royal Army Medical Corps cannot send any communications to the medical press—save by the permission of the Director-General, and after this war is over, in a few years we shall have the pleasure of hearing the views of the A. M. D. There is some advantage in being a civilian surgeon, temporarily attached, at the rate of £5,000 per annum, and the Army Medical Officers, if they do grumble, well, it is just like them. 'They are never satisfied,' even when they have been slighted, insulted, black-balled, they actually grumbled."

One young officer at Pretoria writes to his friends that his great delight is to watch his colonel washing his shirt. The colonel, as refined as he is brave, washes the garment daintily and dubiously, fingering it far more nervously than he would a live shell. Of course, there are plenty who would volunteer to relieve him of the unaccustomed task, but the Boers have made it a rule that each of their prisoners must do his own work.

Lord Beauchamp, the young Governor of New South Wales, is naturally the subject of such stories as that which tells how a lady at a dinner party in his capital confided to him that she had nightly blessed the name of his father, while, on his inquiring where and when she had made his acquaintance, she replied that she had taken his famed pills regularly for years.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



It is not generally known that so strong was the objection of the Queen to her husband, the late Prince Consort being buried even as a temporary arrangement in the same vault as George IV. of infamous memory, that the Prince's coffin was lowered from the choir of St. George's Chapel into the underground passage beneath the aperture in the floor, and was thence wheeled to the entrance of the vault, where it remained, just outside the gates, for about a year, until it was transferred to the Frogmore Mausoleum.

On Friday in last week a conference was held at the Imperial Institute, under the auspices of the Women's Local Government Society, on the position of women in the administration of secondary education. The Countess of Aberdeen, President of the society, occupied the chair. The following resolutions were carried unanimously.

Proposed by Miss Emily Davies, seconded by the Rev. T. W. Sharpe, C.B. :—

"That this conference is of opinion that the presence of women on the Consultative Committee to be appointed under the Board of Education Act, 1899, is necessary to enable the committee to duly perform the duties assigned to it."

Proposed by Mrs. Bryant, seconded by Miss Dove :—

"That this conference is of opinion that in future legislation for the establishment or recognition of local authorities for secondary education provision should be made to ensure the presence of women on such authorities; and, while regretting that the majority of county councils have not so far placed women on their technical education committees, express satisfaction that on such committees as those of Somersetshire, Hertfordshire, Hull and Bath, all now recognised as local authorities for secondary education, not only one, but several women are serving."

Miss Cobbett, the second daughter of the famous William Cobbett, has just died at the age of 94. A contemporary thinks that her long life is evidence of the common sense of his system of treatment of children. We hold it rather to be evidence of the survival of the fittest. One of Cobbett's ideas which he enforced in the case of his own children, was that infants should be washed in cold water however much they howled. Surely a proof, if proof were needed, that men should leave the management of the domestic department to their womenkind, who would not inflict such unnecessary cruelty on defenceless infants.

A most interesting article appears in this month's *Humanitarian*, on "Isis Worship in Paris," by Frederick Lees, in which he remarks that the high Priestess Anari holds some very interesting opinions on woman's rôle in religion. "The idea of the Priestess is at the root of all ancient beliefs," she said, on one occasion. "Only in our ephemeral time has it been neglected. Even in the Old Testament we find the Priestess

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