

and important duties at the base of operations, or worse still, to thrust their unwelcome presence into the hospitals, where men, weakened by disease, or suffering from grievous wounds, require rest and quiet more than anything else. I am delighted that Mr. Treves has had the pluck and independence to speak his mind freely on this subject. No military officer employed at the base would have had the courage to speak out in this fashion, for the very simple reason that such an act would have most certainly effectually blighted his military career. Mr. Treves tells us that these restless belles who find a fashionable amusement and a new sensation in gazing upon the suffering victims of the campaign, are armed as a rule with passes signed by 'personages,' passes which checked the remonstrances of the worried surgeons, who were fully aware of the great part played by 'social influence,' in the running of the British Army. In this there is no exaggeration. This 'social influence,' this 'petticoat patronage,' is the canker which for years, and more especially the last few years, has been sapping the vitality of the British Army. It is a notorious fact that the surest method of obtaining a good appointment is for an officer to get his name noted on the list kept by a certain lady of title; the good word of the dame will more effectually secure the advancement of her nominees than any amount of meritorious service or hard work without such a backing. If Mr. Treves has done anything to expose this scandal he well deserves the gratitude of all Englishmen."

A REASONABLE SUGGESTION.

Sir William Thompson, late president of the Irish College of Surgeons, and chief surgeon to the Irish Hospital, contributes to the *British Medical Journal* some suggestive reflections on the atrocities which the Boers are averred to have committed by deliberately firing on ambulances and hospitals flying the Red Cross flag. Sir William, who dates his notes from Naauwpoort, says that the flags now in use are not sufficiently distinctive, and that he has come to understand "how a hospital may be shelled by an enemy in utter ignorance of what it really is." Indeed, he goes further than this general expression, and, as the result of a trial which he himself made, asserts that in calm weather the flags "were absolutely indistinguishable at 200 yards," though he knew the exact place to look for the flagposts. A very reasonable suggestion is made by Sir William,

namely, that a light canvas on a wire frame, bearing the Red Cross, should be erected above the hospital when the breeze is not strong enough to shake out the ordinary flag and render it visible at a distance.

THE WOMEN'S EXHIBITION.

THE Women's Exhibition at Earl's Court is now open, and already the pleasure-loving public are finding their way there, although much remains to be done before it approaches completion. It cannot be said to afford a complete presentment of women's work, as many branches are altogether unrepresented, while there is much which cannot be said to be in any way representative of women's work. But the British public has never taken the Earl's Court Exhibition seriously. It looks upon it as a favourite form of amusement with which it would be loth to dispense, and viewed in this light, and as a show which will draw attention to, and encourage various forms of women's industries, it "cannot fail to please," and will no doubt serve a useful purpose.

Chiefly of interest to nurses, of course, is the Hospital Section, which is being arranged by the Charing Cross Hospital Special Appeal Committee, and we made our way there at once—to our credit be it said. Arrived there we found it still in the hands of workmen, the tessellated floor of the theatre not yet laid, and everything in a state of incompleteness. We should advise our readers to defer their visit to this section of the Exhibition for two or three weeks, when they will no doubt find it in working order and very interesting. One of the most complete exhibits was that of Messrs. Garrould, of Edgware Road, whose stand of nurses' requisites, and of dolls dressed in the uniforms of the various hospitals, nearly opposite the entrance, attracted much attention.

This firm makes a point of providing for the needs of nurses' articles of practical utility at a most moderate cost. Amongst the things shown at this attractive stall, were some soft tan ward shoes with silent heels, which would be admirable for nurses working abroad, the Clero ward thermometer which costs only 1s., while the bright blue index is specially clear, the Canute watch with second hand, costing £1 1s., and guaranteed, an excellent nickel plated irrigator with thermometer and water gauge was also on view, besides a host of other things. Nurses visiting the exhibition should not fail to stop at this stall.

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