

able superintendence of Miss Purvis, the Lady Superintendent, is a flourishing and useful society. during the past year, the four nurses have attended 780 cases and paid 21,171 visits. No less than 239 of the cases attended were of pneumonia. The past year has also seen the removal of the Nurses' Home from Gunnergate Terrace to more commodious premises in Borough Road. The new home was formally opened at the Annual Meeting last year by the Lady Mayoress, and the report states that the Committee are repaid for their efforts by the increased comfort of their staff, the Lady Superintendent and the nurses having found this change greatly to their advantage. The rules under which the District Nurses at Middlesborough work are excellent, and we notice that one of these provides that "Nurses are not to attend monthly or midwifery cases unless when specially set apart for that duty." It is a most necessary regulation, but not one which is by any means universally observed in district nursing.

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ANOTHER excellent Society, of which Miss Purvis is an Hon. Secretary, and in which she is keenly interested, is the Middlesborough Children's Fresh Air Fund. Through the agency of this most useful Society, parties of children are sent to the sea, or the country, fortnightly from May to September. The value of such a holiday, both from the health and from the educational point of view, can scarcely be over-estimated. It has been strikingly illustrated of late by Miss G. T. Kimmins in "Polly of Parker's Rents."

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THE danger of going to sleep without removing false teeth has recently been exemplified by the accident which befell one of the clergy of Neath, near Swansea. During his sleep, he swallowed a mouth-plate with two artificial teeth attached, and it became so firmly embedded in the trachea that tracheotomy was performed. The moral of this episode is that, setting aside the claims of cleanliness, for considerations of safety, false teeth should always be removed before going to bed.

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MISS MARY KINGSLEY, writing in *Chamber's Journal* on "Nursing in West Africa," says many wise and witty things. What a saving grace is humour!

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"EVER since I became acquainted with West Africa I have had a strong conviction that what is wanted is a hospital-cruiser; and the more I know of those regions strengthens my opinion on that point. A properly equipped hospital-ship, with a staff of trained white female nurses on

board, two medical men, a dispenser, and a boy, would do work no other kind of hospital could do so well.

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"THEN there should be in each European settlement ashore a branch hospital in charge of the colonial medical officer of the district, as there is now in many places. In these shore-hospitals, at the small stations at any rate, the nursing should be done by men—white hospital orderlies for the white patients, black for the native wards. These shore-hospitals, both in large and small settlements, should deal with white patients who could not immediately be put on the hospital-ship; but the rule should be that as soon as a white patient could be got on board that ship he should be so transferred.

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"Now, I am quite well aware that there are objections to hospital-ships in the tropics. When they are moored there is the burning question of bilge-water. I will not discourse on the subject of bilge-water, as inexperience thereof might make the explanation wearisome. Any one acquainted with the bilge-water question knows it is of engrossing interest. Bilge is a prince among smells, and if you have ever fallen under its power you will always think that every terrific thing in smells is a manifestation of bilge-water. I remember on one occasion, when on board a moored hulk—not a hospital-ship—smelling in the evening something that called for mention, so I mentioned. 'Oh,' said my companions—more under the sway of bilge-belief than I was, from their greater knowledge of its power—'it's only our bilge-water.' In the morning we found it was the rotting carcass of an elephant that had floated down the river and now hung in the mooring-chain. After a considerable time was spent in getting rid of the carcass, I said, 'For goodness' sake, gentlemen, stir up your bilge-water and let the smells fight it out together while we go ashore for a spell.' 'No,' said my companions, terror-stricken at the suggestion; 'you do not know our bilge-water when it's back's up. It would stretch you if you were half-way across Africa. This elephant is mere lavender-water to it.' This was a more dreadful bilge-water than a hospital-ship would have. Still, though bad, bilge-water is not necessarily fatal, under proper management.

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"THEN there is the objection to the motion of a vessel moored at sea. The West African seas are not stormy except during a tornado; and these may be expected twice a day during two seasons in the year. I do not say they

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