

them, for, as I say, they are not up to the work of a well-trained nurse. I should have thought half to be really trained—men with an aptitude for handling others and waiting on them, such as one often sees in ordinary life; the other half to be bearers and regular scrubbers, washers, cleaners, etc., etc., would help matters forward greatly. They did not much admire our nurses' energy, from all I hear, as one was said to be "as bad as a blooming Colonel," and another "a little beast for work." But poor fellows, they had terrible long marches, and were unused entirely to African heat and dust. It seems to me that infinite pains have been taken for the sick. The generals when in town have visited the hospitals daily, and apart from inevitable blunders in such a vast field of sickness and sorrow, surrounded by ruin and distress, battle and pestilence everything possible has been done for them. And in blaming sanitary measures it should not be forgotten how certain it seems that the microbes of disease are continually conveyed in the proboscis of a mosquito—and of these horrid little plagues we have had a most unusual number this year.

Let us hope that the war is nearly over, and that poor Africa may at last enjoy the Blessing of Peace.

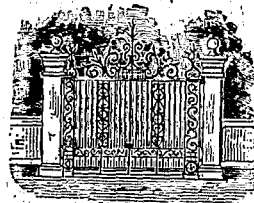
Miss Mary Kingsley on Nursing at Simonstown.

An unfinished letter from Miss Mary Kingsley, to Miss Flora L. Shaw, was published in Tuesday's *Times*, and the following extract will be read with much interest. As Miss Shaw suggests it may serve to throw a certain pathetic light upon the loss we have to deplore in the writer's untimely death. Miss Kingsley writes:—

"I turn to the hospital where so many deaths occurred during March and the first week in April for two main reasons—(1) The men were sent there in a moribund state; (2) the disease they were suffering from was not enteric as is commonly understood, but typhus, or camp fever, of a virulent type. There was no mistaking it—there was the characteristic rash and it was catching, which enteric and typhoid are technically not. We have had three orderlies nearly dead of it and several others, and nursing sisters merely saved by the vigilance of the C.M.O., Dr. Carre. When I came on duty things were at their worst. With this form of fever five men died the first night and they had been dying like flies. After a few days, however, the typhus set of patients were all dead or on the mend—mainly the latter—and I have no hesitation in saying that considering what that fever was we had an uncommon low mortality. Now we have plenty of real enteric fever cases. They are all doing extremely well, but to put down the typhus mortality as an enteric mortality and kick up a row about it, as people out here have been doing, is most absurd and unfair. It may also be possible that these enteric cases contracted the fever since they have been prisoners of war, for as you know, at this season of the year, that fever is endemic round here, &c., but that fever that killed off the Boer prisoners was a fever they brought with them from the awful conditions they had been living under in Cronje's laager and other places up Modder River way, and, as aforesaid, they recovered far more frequently than they had any right to expect. As for the conduct of our authorities in the matter it has been excellent."

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



We take the following from an article on "The Tragedy of Fashion" in the *Young Woman* for August:—

The seal is skinned alive, the tortoise is scalded alive, the egret is left to perish of hunger—for what? That a woman may wear a pretty hat, a costly coat, a particular comb. The

day will come when women will be ashamed to see instruments of torture and deck themselves with vanities which cost so much in suffering.

"A beautiful woman," it is added, "needs no such adornment, and no such adornment can make a woman attractive in the eyes of honest men."

Those who wear an ill-fitting shoe, know where it pinches, and it is significant of the feeling of the voting women of New Zealand that they have obtained the presentation to their Colonial Parliament of a Bill providing for what they call "the Economic Independence of Married Women." They suggest that where husband and wife both earn outside the house, their incomes shall be added together and then equally divided between them; and that if, outside the home, only the man earn, his income shall (in the absence of any agreement to the contrary) be divided into two parts, and a half paid to the wife, "this being regarded in law as her own separate wages or earnings, just as if she were in receipt of the same as wages, but to be applied equally with the husband's share, towards the support of the household." This Bill also provides that the aid of a magistrate may be invoked if either husband or wife shall refuse to appropriate a proper portion of the wages and earnings of the partnership to the purposes of the family; the questions that obviously arise as to how large a part ought to be paid for the children's education and so on, being left, when the married couple themselves cannot agree, to the magistrate's arbitration.

Commenting on this arrangement in the *Weekly Sun* Mrs. Fenwick Miller writes:—"It is characteristic of women's incurable trust that the arbitrator would thus in every case be a man!"

Intense interest is manifested throughout Western Australia in the poll which is about to be taken on the question of Federation.

An almost unanimous vote in favour of joining in the Federation of Australia is anticipated. All the women are voting for federation.

A School of Housekeeping has been founded at 45 and 47, St. Botolph Street, Boston, Mass., by the Women's Educational and Industrial Union, the aim of which is a scientific study of the home, so as to bring it into line with present industrial tendencies and scientific facts, social and physical, that it shall not work against but for progress. It is designed to meet the needs of those who wish to fit themselves to manage a household on the best economic and scientific basis. The full course occupies a period of thirty-two weeks, or two terms, and is very complete. The director is Miss Henrietta I. Goodrich.

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