

Here is an account in a Bloemfontein letter from one of our Australian troopers, Macfarlane, of the kind of nurse we need—'We have a grand little nurse; she comes like the sunshine or a breath of fresh air. The lads almost worship her. You will see rough hardened men, almost too weak to move, watch her every motion. She is very lively and cheerful, which does much good in the ward; and she never loses her temper. These women are very much to be admired for the unselfish way they face the hardships.'

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ALLUDING to the desirability of pensions for nurses, Lord Tennyson said that in England:—

"The Royal Pension Fund for Nurses was begun in 1887, and a pension is justly due to those gallant women who have nobly sacrificed themselves and worn themselves out in their fight with disease and death."

This is so, but it must not be forgotten that in this country nurses pay for their so-called pension themselves, and full price too!

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OF late a great deal has been done, according to the *Daily Mail*, to teach the Japanese how to become efficient nurses. At first it was not at all easy to get the right class of women to learn the practical side of the business, for this sort of work was regarded as an uneducated form of labour, to which it would ill become the educated woman to pay attention. In time, however, the little chrysanthemum ladies began to attend lectures, and from them learnt how to disinfect their toy houses and to cover up their architectural hair with nurses' caps. Private nursing was not popular at first. People had their own Sarah Gamps, whom they deemed quite as good as anybody else, but at last trained nurses became in such demand that there were not nearly enough to fill the supply. This is one way in which Japan has become Europeanised of late years. That she has fully appreciated the lessons taught in this matter is apparent from some of the news that trickles through from the Far East just now. The Japanese hospital and transport service is said to be superior to anything of the kind belonging to the foreign contingents. Also wounded foreigners have been taken to Japanese hospitals and scientifically nursed by Japanese women. When they do take up anything the Japs take it up thoroughly, and are not satisfied until they become quite efficient. In nursing matters, it will not be surprising if some day the Japanese improve upon their European models in every branch of the art. Some of the best women are now taking up nursing in Japan, partly as a profession, partly from purely humanitarian motives.

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UNDER the heading "Jottings from a Chinese Hospital," the *Daily Graphic* publishes some

interesting details of hospital work from the pen of a medical missionary:—

"IN China every form of sickness is referred to devils. 'Foreign devil he fight China sick devil, perhaps foreign devil win,' sums up the medical mission situation. What are you to do with a sick man who gravely tells you that his disease was caused by 'walking along a straight road'? Chinamen purposely make their roads crooked, because demons are well known to fly in a straight line. By walking in the straight path you run every chance that a demon will attack and smite you with a grave illness. The foreign devil may exorcise the local product. Anyway, no harm is done by giving him the chance. Sometimes a detachment of out-patients diagnose their diseases as due to the 'dragon's pulse fall sick.' What does it mean? Ask a Chinaman. Nobody else has a key to the cypher.

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"CHINESE hospital patients, like a well-known brand of soap, won't wash clothes, and they object strongly to the use of water to their persons. They either believe, or profess to believe, in order to ensure a comfortable absence of ablutions, that a lavish use of water turns people into fish. A Chinese hospital contains no beds. For a certain number of patients a certain space is provided on the floor. In cold weather the invalid lies on a mat, with a wadded cotton wool rug drawn over him. He is nursed fully dressed, just as he comes in. It is impossible to persuade him to allow any article of his attire to be removed. If limbs are broken he reluctantly submits to wear a kimous-shaped garment. A night-shirt is regarded as a humiliating affront. At home the Chinaman sleeps on a bed built with bricks; in nearly all hospitals he occupies the floor.

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"CHINAMEN make capital nurses. Cooking and nursing are pre-eminently the talents of the race. As nursemaids Chinamen are unsurpassed. In the wards they prove gentle, deft, and tender in handling a sick person, but they cannot comprehend the higher branches of sick nursing. To them all illness is a matter of obsession by a demon, or the result of spell or miracle.

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"If the first two doses of a drug do not work a perceptible improvement they generally demand a change of medicine or a discharge from the hospital. John invariably inquires whether his drugs are vegetable or mineral. Certain plants are believed to possess the power of working miracles, but great mistrust is felt of minerals in medicine. In all cases the diagnosis of the

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