

creatures for the acquisition of knowledge . . . The delight in killing is essentially irreligious, and the pleasure in cruelty devilish, and no creed that ever was professed will excuse the one or the other."

"I am not censorious," adds Mr. Stillman; "I judge not, except myself, but I can only regard the Christianity of a sportsman as in no way superior to a refined paganism."

No one will deny that paper money may be a source of danger to health, especially when with much fingering it arrives at the black and greasy state, it is not surprising, therefore, to learn that the Government at Rio de Janeiro are destroying it for fear of infection and are burning notes bearing the face value of 1,000 contos of reis.

A Memorial of the Mother Queen.

A medical man has been sufficiently liberal-minded to suggest in a professional journal that the most urgent need of a newly made mother is a nurse—a clean, handy, intelligent person—trained if such can be afforded; but if not, one sufficiently docile to carry out instructions. We nurses know the benefit and comfort a skilled and helpful woman brings at such a time, and no department of our work give us greater satisfaction though we are diffident of saying too much about it, because it is apt to be assumed that we think ourselves of more importance than the doctor. Of course we do nothing of the kind—no one knows better than a trained nurse the value of medical skill, but there are many things that the mother and newly-born infant need which the medical practitioner has neither time nor training to give.

He delivers the mother, but who is to make her comfortable, make the bed, wash the infant, and cook the gruel? No one will wish to say that the doctor should perform these duties, but it is most important that they should be carried out by skillful and trained hands, or the discomfort suffered by the patient will go far to nullify the skill of the medical treatment. Therefore, while it is common ground that a woman is indispensable in the lying-in room I think that woman should be skilled in the duties demanded of her, otherwise she may do more harm than good. How are the services of such women to be brought to the poor who in many instances cannot afford to pay both doctor and nurse? Surely by the compassion of those in better circumstances for their working sisters in their hour of need, and the organization of a scheme which will place trained nursing within the reach of every lying-in woman in the country, I can conceive of no more suitable memorial to the great and good Queen whose loss we now deplore, than that a fund should be raised to found a branch of the Queen's Jubilee Institute, (itself a splendid instance of woman's inspiration and generosity), the work of which should be to bring trained nurses, with a midwifery qualification, into the homes of the poor throughout the land. Such nurses should, in my opinion, work under medical direction, supplementing, not supplanting, the medical practitioner. I cannot but think that such a suggestion must commend itself to all those who know how close the welfare of her poorer subjects lay to the heart of the Queen.

MARGARET BREAY.

Professional Review.

THE SICK AND WOUNDED IN SOUTH AFRICA.

BY MR. W. BURDETT-COUTTS, M.P.

(Continued from page 96.)

CHAPTER II. deals with the historic "Article IX.," which had already received such publicity that it is unnecessary to deal with it at length in a review such as the present. Its appearance in the *Times* made a profound sensation at the time that the country was congratulating itself that whatever other shortcomings there had been in this war the hospital arrangements at least were perfect. Commenting on this letter, the writer asks, "Was it fair to the British Army? Was it just to the British public to go on thumping the tub of 'perfection' and to pronounce the verdict before the real trial had begun? Would it not have been common prudence to wait and see what would happen? It was no longer even a matter of speculation. Already typhoid had opened her deadly wings and spread them like some monstrous vulture over march and camp and field and town, front to base. But typhoid is the known "scourge of South Africa." Was it no one's duty to think, to warn, to prepare?" As to the Army medical system, "It would be as easy to stretch an old glass bottle, tied up with red tape and sealed with official stamp as effectively to adjust the present system to a sudden pressure of numbers." Article IX., however, inevitably brought down a whirlwind of attacks on the author, "which became peculiarly bitter when once the fetish of party spread its blistering hand over the subject. Professional animus had already preceded party prejudice; and to crown all, witnesses came forward to say how comfortable they had been in other places and at other times than those I had described. It became quickly apparent that I was to receive the full force of the vested interests and great influences which had not yet been disturbed by a direct and incursive attack, and which now concentrated themselves upon their first assailant. The "man in possession," hydra-headed, donned his armour, and called innumerable sleeping partners to his aid."

Then comes the story of the fight in the House of Commons. Mr. Burdett-Coutts may well have supposed, as he tells us, that the subject of the breakdown in the medical arrangements could not be made a party question, or that he would be accused of making an attack upon the Government of the day. "I am afraid," he says, "even if I had clearly foreseen the course of events, it would have made no difference to my own action; for the matter at issue was one of life and death—the life or death of brave men who came from all political parties, and who had fought, and were still fighting, for their common country."

Then came the appointment of the Hospitals Commission, and the controversy which waged with regard to its composition. At first it was proposed that only three members should be appointed, and Mr. Balfour obstinately held to this number. The following vivid description of the scene in the House of Commons over this question shows how the question was fought out:—

"One of the characteristic moments had now arrived which make life in the House of Commons worth living, one of the rare occasions when the party framework totters under the aggregate impulse of in-

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