

dividual conviction, and the biggest majority trembles in the balance. Beneath the iron hands of party discipline the grand old Mother of Parliaments keeps a watchful mind, and a young heart, mobile, impressionable, independent.

The Leader of the House had set his course, but the "ship refused to answer the helm." Colonel Sanderson, Sir Mark Stewart, Mr. Arnold Foster, urged the enlargement of the Committee. "So the stormy petrels followed one another, indicating the gathering of the waters beneath. Our benches below the gangway muttered and buzzed, and many a malcontent said openly how he would vote. The ship was wallowing in the trough, and the timbers began to gape. Then, in the nick of time the wise supercargo, silent guardian of the owner's interest, who had been watching at the bar, appeared beside the skipper in earnest conversation. Suddenly the course was changed, and the good ship rode over the bar safe into harbour. Mr. Balfour consented to enlarge the Committee."

The Commission soon got to work, and before leaving for South Africa took some evidence in this country. Of chief interest, of course, was that given by Mr. Burdett-Coutts. He made a distinct point when he concluded his evidence by the following general remarks. "Generally speaking, if you have no more questions to ask me, I should like to say that what I think is this: that every other class in the country, with regard to every condition they find themselves in, has during the last fifty years enormously advanced with the exception, I believe, of the British soldier in a great war. I believe that his lot under these circumstances has not advanced. He does not know what medical treatment is—what it might be, or what it ought to be. If you were to put him on a gridiron and roast him, and tell him that was the way to kill the enteric germ, he would believe it. He is very brave, and he thinks bravery consists in standing any hardships just as much as it does in fighting. My point is, we have no right to trade upon this ignorance on the one hand, or upon this fine bravery on the other, and that we should save many lives, and greatly improve his condition, if we recognised that a great deal more could be done in war time than has been done in this war."

The chapter on "Reform" is one to be carefully read and considered. One of the chief points brought out is the need of a further recognition of the necessity for largely increasing the staff of women nurses employed in military hospitals. "The principle of female nursing, particularly of the sick, should be fully admitted, and a better scheme of careful selection and registration of nurses for war time adopted. Each contingent of nurses should have a solidarity of its own, under an experienced matron.

A superior chief matron or superintendent (or more than one if necessary) should be placed over each area in a campaign, to whom all important matters concerning the discipline, dismissal, etc., of nurses should be referred, and whose decision shall be final. She should be ubiquitous and watchful, constantly inspecting the hospitals, and bearing the same relation to the nurses as the Chief P.M.O. does to the officers of the R.A.M.C." This is, of course, what the NURSING RECORD has steadfastly preached for years past. Mr. Burdett-Coutts has taken the bit between his teeth as to Army Nursing Reforms. Let us hope he will carry those reforms through.

### Another Lung for London.

The London County Council on Tuesday accepted from Mr. F.J. Horniman, J.P., the gift to the people of London of the Horniman Park and Museum at Forest Hill, the chairman remarking that the munificence of the donor was probably equalled only by that of Sir Sydney Waterlow in the presentation of Waterlow Park.

### The Plague.

At the meeting of the Bristol Health Committee, on Tuesday, the medical officer reported on the plague-infected ship recently under observation in the port. She was from Smyrna with a cargo of barley. Rats found dead on board were pronounced by the Local Government Board to have died from plague, and two hundred and twenty-six rats were subsequently destroyed. One hundred and fourteen persons were being kept under medical observation, but no case of plague had as yet been reported.

### New Preparations, Inventions, etc.

#### THE MYNAME SOAP.

A complete novelty in soaps has recently been submitted to us by the Myname Soap Company, Limited, of 59 Eastcheap, E.C., in the shape of tablets, which can be impressed with names, addresses and so forth, and so thoroughly and indelibly that the impression persists until the last fragment of the soap is used. The idea is both practically useful and pleasing, for it enables a box of toilet soap to be made a personal gift by having the recipient's Christian name thus stamped upon each cake. And for institutions, especially hospitals, it should be of great advantage to have the name—perhaps even the ward—impressed on the soap. In the case of hotels the prevention of speculation should effect an immense saving. So far as the soap itself is concerned we have tested it carefully and find that it is free from excess of alkali, gives a pleasant and abundant lather, and is delicately perfumed. It can, therefore, be recommended for toilet purposes. The same company has recently introduced a Castor Soap Powder, which will be useful for house cleaning purposes. It is a finely comminuted white powder, contained in a stout cardboard tin, with perforated top, so that the contents can be kept dry and easily dusted out when required, a great improvement over the usual soap powders sold in paper packets, which rapidly deteriorate and get damp and useless. We have found this form effective, and for the reasons given it should be economical. We, therefore, recommend it to the notice of the managers of hospitals and other institutions.

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