

nationality, and her gentleness, sympathy, unremitting attention, and complete self-effacement are beautiful qualities. One of the interesting and novel features of the society's organization is that it has two large steamers—the *Mercy* (Hakuai) and the *Saviour* (Kosai)—which are specially constructed and equipped as floating hospitals. In these ships the wounded and the sick find all the comforts furnished by a first-class hospital on shore, and are under the care of a large staff of highly-trained surgeons and nurses. The arrangement made at Tien-tsin was that all the light cases should be conveyed by the most suitable vessels in the transport fleet, and that the graver cases should be carried by the Red Cross ships. The *Mercy* and the *Saviour* each made five voyages from Ta-ku to Hiroshima between July 18th and October 11th, and carried altogether 1,678 patients, wounded and sick. Eleven ordinary steamers were similarly employed, and, according to returns just published, the total number of wounded officers and men carried to Hiroshima from the beginning of the complication until October 31st was 776, and the number of sick 2,643, making an aggregate of 3,419. Out of these the recoveries thus far have been 1,717, and the deaths 110. The Red Cross Society has disbursed a sum of 600,000 yen, but the Government's outlays are not yet publicly known.

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It was thought probable that the troops of the allied Powers might be embarrassed for want of hospital accommodation in North China, and preparations to meet any emergency of that nature were made at Hiroshima. But the French and the Austrians alone availed themselves of Japanese assistance, the British making use of Wei-hai-wei, the Russians of Inasa at Nagasaki, where they have a coal depot and a hospital, and the Germans of Kiao-chau. A hundred and fourteen French and two Austrian patients were carried in Japanese vessels to Hiroshima and taken into the hospital there, and it would seem from the letters written by officers and men alike that they were very much pleased with the treatment they received. One officer writes that he found a second France in the Far East, and a sergeant-major, after recording profound admiration of the surgeons' skill and the nurses' attention, declares that, on his return to his native country, it will be a source of perpetual pleasure to him to describe to his family and his friends the care and kindness lavished on him in a Japanese hospital. It is curious to contrast these things with the incidents of the war of the Japanese Restoration in 1867-68, when the only efficient aid received by the wounded was rendered by two surgeons attached to the British Legation in Tokio.

Notes on Practical Nursing.

CIRCULAR WARDS.

In reply to Miss McGahey's enquiries concerning circular wards, we have received the following courteous letters.

Miss F. E. Marquardt, Matron of the Camberwell Infirmary, says:—

"We have four circular wards here—

ADVANTAGES.

1. Nicer from an æsthetic point of view.
2. Better ventilation and cooler in summer—when the ventilation depends almost wholly upon the windows, as in most buildings not of recent date; the lower windows are half-sized French.
3. *Comparative* privacy for patient.
4. Less ground for nurses to cover (apparently).

DISADVANTAGES.

1. Cost of construction greater.
2. When one nurse only is on duty she cannot command view of all her patients.
3. Less space for locomotion (or apparently so) not noticeable in a medical ward, but very obvious in a busy surgical ward with the necessary dressing waggons, screens, wheel-chairs, etc.

Since my appointment here the whole of the floor has had to be relaid, it is of the herring-bone order, and was very loose, dangerous, and a veritable dust trap.

I do not know if the fault was in the original 'setting' (which I suspect) or owing to its being circular difficult to fit in.

There are modern and superior circular wards at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary."

Miss Dora Finch, Matron of the New Hospital for Women, 144, Euston Road, writes:—

"We find the Circular Wards are less draughty than those of the ordinary type. The windows are able to be wide open even in this weather with no complaint from the patients. Also it is possible to nurse with fewer nurses having less floor space to cover. Circular wards are very easy to ventilate, the centre pillar containing an air shaft. Then we also get the sun whenever there is any, in some part of the ward. Against all this we find it most inconvenient not being able to see all the patients at once, neither can one see at a glance if there is a nurse in the ward. Personally I like the round wards but dislike the centre pillar. I hope these facts will be of some use to you."

Miss Gertrude Knight, Matron of the General Hospital, Nottingham, writes:—

"I can only speak in the highest praise of our circular wards. They are bright, cheerful, and comfortable, both patients and nurses are delighted with them. I really know of no demerits that I can ascribe to them. Miss Bann, the late Matron of the Liverpool Royal Infirmary, was very strong in their praise, and she had worked them for years. My experience is only one month."

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