

The wonderful high houses about which one has read so much did not seem out of proportion where all the houses are practically very high, and one had to count twice before one realised that one was looking at a building 17 or 18 stories high or more. They are said to be fireproof, but I had rather live on the ground floor. But everything in America is big, big efforts, big failures, big charities, big swindles, whilst they are, for a sane go-ahead people, wonderfully liable to be gulled by quacks, medical and religious. I suppose it is all part of their wish to give everybody a fair trial without prejudice.

The air of New York, whilst I was there was full of excitement about the coming election of the Mayor, which seemed entirely to overshadow in importance the new President "Our Teddy" and his doings, for was it not the great struggle with the Tammany ring. My friend and leader was a red hot "Anti-Tamminite," and regarded the New York Police as villains of the deepest dye. I got quite infected and would have plunged into New York politics with pleasure, had I had more than five days in which to do it.

The American's staff of life, his sheet anchor, his joy, and his main delight (excuse mixed terms) is iced water. The light-hearted way in which they would toss off a gallon of this delectable fluid was a standing marvel to me. I was assured they did it on eminent medical authority, and I had to remember Gil Blas' master before I could believe it. Blocks of ice were left on the doorsteps of private houses as we hang milk cans on the area railings. I saw a forgotten hundred-weight or so melting away on one of the busiest (and dirtiest) pavements of Montreal, but the rights of property were respected, and no one removed the tempting morsel. If you rang your bell at the hotel the boy brought up a huge jug of iced water without orders. I got accustomed to beginning my breakfast with half a melon, but I could not add the regulation couple of glasses of iced water. I suppose it is the American's love of having everything on a large scale, that leads him to give you a generous brick of ice cream all to yourself after dinner, a brick that would be sufficient for a whole English dinner party.

When my time in America came to an end, I had been less than four weeks "on the other side," but I felt as if I were leaving a new home. I had to go, but I wanted to stay badly. I want now to go back and see everything again, and all I have missed, and, above all, to meet again all the friends I made out there. Goodbye to you all and take care of yourselves till I come back. Auf Wiedersehen. Au revoir.

M. M.

Professional Review.

REFUGEE CAMPS.

The Blue Book issued on Friday last by the Colonial Office containing "Reports on the Working of the Refugee Camps" is a bulky document of nearly 400 pages. It deals mainly with the camps in the Transvaal, the camps in the Orange River Colony having been previously reported upon, but statistics are also given as to the Natal, Cape Colony and Port Elizabeth camps. There are also special reports by Dr. Kendal Franks on the Irene, Johannesburg, Krugersdorp, Potchefstroom, Klerksdorp, Pietersburg, Nylstroom, Heidelberg, Standerton, and Volksrust camps. It is interesting to note in the report of Sir J. G. Maxwell, Military Governor in Pretoria, dated March 22nd, that a certificated nurse in every instance acts as Matron of the camp.

Much controversy has been aroused by the statements made by Miss Hobhouse concerning the camps, and she has been termed a pro-Boer, a hysterical agitator, and other names, because she has ventured to plead the cause of the wives and children of our enemies. We believe, however, that any one who considers the question dispassionately will wish that the best arrangements possible under the circumstances should be made for these people, and that defects in the organization of the camps should, as far as possible, be remedied. We know that amongst the Boer women, as, indeed, amongst many artizan women in this country, much ignorance on the subject of feeding and nursing children prevails, and this has increased the difficulty of the situation.

Nevertheless, the accuracy of Miss Hobhouse's moderate and restrained account of the camp at Bloemfontein receives powerful confirmation in the official report of Dr. Beecher, who says:—

"To come to the real causes of disease and death prevalent in this camp, the following must be enumerated.

- (6.) 1. The indiscriminate massing together of people of all sorts from different parts of the Colony in a large camp whereby, no doubt, contagion is bound to assert itself.
2. Insufficient hospital accommodation for infectious cases.
3. Insufficient housing and covering, absence of warmth. The tents are thus not giving sufficient warmth to people who have been suddenly removed from houses. Some of the tents are useless as a covering. In many cases also the supply of blankets is insufficient.
4. Overcrowding in many tents.
5. Insufficient latrine accommodation.
6. Slops thrown about the tents.
7. Insufficient supply of water as well for the washing of clothes as for the person.
8. Bad nursing on the part of the people themselves, cold, want of room and breathing space.
9. Insufficient food supply. I think half-a-pound of meat for an adult not sufficient. The Boer Afrikander is used to a great deal more. Fresh milk and vegetables (even though compressed or preserved in tins) should be supplied two or three times a week. Diarrhoea is very prevalent amongst adults as amongst children, and in many cases due to the food, in other cases undoubtedly to the

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