

Illinois nurses have placed their ambitions before the members of the Club, and from the following paragraph have evidently secured the support of this influential organisation.

"A Bill to be known as an act to provide for the licensing of trained nurses and regulating the practice of nursing as a profession. This has come to us through the Graduate Nurses' Association of Illinois, said organization now being members of the State Federation, and is the result of resolutions which were passed at the International Congress of Trained Nurses, held in Buffalo, September, 1901. We ask that you give this very special attention on account of its unquestionable need, for, as Dr. Sarah Hackett Stevenson says, it is another measure tending towards higher education; and Dr. Daniel R. Brower, in an address before the Illinois Training School for Nurses, says:—'If the man who prescribes the medicine and the man who compounds it are licensed by the State, should not the most important one of all, the nurse who administers it, be registered under State laws?'"

An interesting letter, dated from "The Hospital, St. Vincent," has been received in this country by the friends of Miss Rachel Paterson, an English nurse. Describing the eruption of the Soufrière, which is about twenty miles from Kingstown, she says that for some time the Soufrière had been grumbling, and there had been several shocks of earthquake, but no one seemed to think much about it until flames were seen issuing from the mountain. The following morning there was thunder, and a continuous growl, "just like the water boiling in hot water pipes," and later a thick cloud of smoke was thrown into the sky. "This column of smoke was most beautiful; part of it was pure white, shading off in all shades of pearly grey to a deep black, and through this every few minutes shot great rockets of flame." Later came a rain of ash, stone, and sand. After describing the preparations made at the hospital for the reception of the injured, Miss Paterson concludes: "I have not as yet felt afraid, it is all so wonderful, so unlike anything I have seen or imagined that I do not think one is likely to feel fear, though it is most awfully impressive. On the Wednesday (the day of the first explosion) the stillness was something wonderful; not a breath of wind; human beings, animals, and even the sea seemed to keep still, expecting something unusual to happen. Not a sound but the peals of thunder and growling of the volcano."

The grey or white "waltzing mice" of China and Japan are by origin Chinese, and, according to Dr. Kishi, their propensity to dance is not, as supposed, the result of a disease of the "labyrinth" of the ear, but of confinement for untold centuries in small cages. This may interest visitors to the Brighton Home of Rest where some of these little captives were once great pets.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR



A little hospital which does much good in an unobtrusive way is the Grosvenor Hospital for Women and Children in Vincent Square. Miss Gascoigne, the hon. secretary of the Ladies' Committee of this hospital, writes to appeal for subscriptions, as it is entirely unendowed and the voluntary contributions are inadequate to meet the demands upon it. It is in the midst of great poverty, and the neighbourhood is unable to contribute to its support. The work is almost entirely surgical. There is an out-patient department as well as a Samaritan Fund for the poorer patients when they leave the hospital.

Earl Roberts has consented to preside at the annual distribution of prizes to successful students of St. George's Hospital Medical School in October next. It is anticipated that the occasion will see a considerable muster of old St. George's men who have been doing good service in South Africa during the recent campaign.

Efforts are being made by "Our Dumb Friends' League" (a society for the encouragement of kindness to animals) to raise £5,000 for the national animals' hospital which the society is about to establish. Towards this two cheques have been received, one for £500 and another for £50, and other smaller sums, making a total of about £700. This institution is to provide for all animals in want of veterinary attention, which will be treated free when the owner is unable to pay.

At a Special Court held at Middlesex Hospital it was agreed to give authority for the sale of stock to the aggregate amount of £20,000 to meet the expenditure of the hospital during the year. Surely it is time the management of this institution was conducted with some degree of economy.

We gather from the report of the Council of the Cremation Society of England that the cremations which have taken place at Woking during the year 1901 show a slight falling off in the number as compared with the preceding year. Thus, in 1901, 273 cremations were performed, as against 301 in 1900. One explanation for this may be found in the fact that whereas in the early part of 1900 a very high death-rate existed, which kept the crematorium occupied up to the full extent of its capacity, the year 1901 has been a more than ordinarily healthy one, the deaths in London being several thousands below the average, and 8,000 fewer than in 1900. The falling off, however, is more particularly attributed to the distance of the crematorium from London. But the Golder's Green crematorium is now being rapidly pushed on, and will, it is to be hoped, be opened during the present year.

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