

NEWS of yet another death whilst in the execution of duty reaches me, I regret to say, from Sydney, N.S.W. Nurse Mabel Hiley, a bright, healthy-looking young lady, highly respected by every one in the Institution—the Sydney Hospital—contracted typhoid fever, having had several cases under her charge. Nursing work is not by any means devoid of risks, even to the apparently strong ones. S J.

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

THE MANICURE.

OUR young lady cousins beyond the waters—the fair society Misses of New York—aye, and their mammas too, are noted for their pretty, shapely finger nails. Now the secret is out, and the fairy is amongst us. For years past manicure has been patronised in America. The word is derived from the Latin, and signifies the care of the hands and nails. Miss Mary Cobb, who but a few days since arrived from the New World to introduce into the old her new art, is the originator of the American system of manicure; in Paris it has been practised for some time, but is not carried out to such a degree of perfection. She has a large business in New York city, whither come the fair belles of society, and also their less fortunate sisters, who, not endowed by nature with the gift of beauty, would fain obtain it by the aid of art, to have their finger nails shaped like filberts, and polished till they resemble the most delicately-tinted shell, for the sum of one dollar and a-quarter, equivalent to our five shillings. Miss Cobb's business address is Messrs. Truefitt and Co., Bond Street, and this firm are also her agents here for all goods needed for the art of manicure—knives, curricula, dainty scissors, emery boards, so tiny as to look as if they belonged to some midget household, and above all, charming little files for filing the nails. They also sell her cosmetics, Cherri-lip, for giving to the nails a pretty pink tone; Pan-Ta cream for blotches; Tan-tie for bleaching and removing stains, &c.; and Yu-Bon for brittle finger nails. As the process of "manicuring" is probably unknown to most of my readers, I will describe how it was practically demonstrated to me. First my hand was dipped in perfumed water. Then the nails were skilfully shaped by Miss Cobb's experienced fingers, being afterwards filed with a small file, made expressly for the purpose, the sides being rounded with a sharp pair of scissors. Next they were rubbed with the little emery boards, and then polished with Cherri-lip paste. This is tiring work for the poor polisher; but she is rewarded by the effect, the performed-on nails not looking the

least like those still waiting to be manipulated, but converted into nails of beauty and a joy—till they again need the magic touches. Miss Cobb is prepared to receive pupils, and to teach them this new kind of "fingering." She would prove an able mistress, as she thoroughly understands her subject, the first qualification of any teacher.

WHETHER or no manicure will ever become the rage in London remains a problem of the future; but the idea is favourably received everywhere—and why not? Are not pretty hands a pleasant sight for the eyes as much as a pretty face or a graceful coiffure. Here is apparently a chance for clever-fingered young ladies to leave the beaten tracts, and start on a new route to that desideratum, "success in life."

THERE will be a hue and cry amongst a certain set of ladies who despise the art of beauty, and who consider it wicked to try and improve one's personal appearance. "Waste of time and money," they exclaim. Yet this is not altogether true, and never will be until the influence of beauty becomes a thing of the past, a curse that will not fall on this generation. After all it is not the pretty girl who gains the most from this gift, for save when before the mirror she cannot see her own fair countenance, whereas those around her can glance up from their occupation and feast their eyes on a vision of beauty, which (unlike the famous views in Wales and many parts of England and abroad) they can behold without emptying their pockets. Oh, ye sisters who possess this gift of beauty, a gift which after the manner of gifts brings with it ever its temptations, use ye well the precious influence, which you can use either for good or evil.

WHEN, oh, when will the middleman be done away with altogether? The day will come, and when it does all will rejoice, save the poor middlemen themselves. Here is a practical step in this direction. A lady in a village on the Chiltern Hills has successfully taught her poorer sisters to make bead and pillow-lace work, disposing of the same for them afterwards to the rich and fair, the price asked being less than that of the West End shops, as there is no percentage added for "windows." The result has been as follows: In 1884 the sales realised £89, and in 1888 £381. The workers receive all the profits, after deducting the price of the materials. The world could do well with a few more of such practically philanthropic ladies as she who dwells beneath the shadows of those famous hills.

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