

paddle-wheel of the steamer. It appears to us not only extraordinary to take a melancholic patient out on a steamboat, but also, when this grave risk is incurred, that the attention of the nurse should be engaged in any other way than looking after the safety of the patient. If the fact is as reported, we are of opinion that the nurse did not appreciate the professional responsibility she had undertaken. So many cases of suicide are reported in cases where a nurse is in attendance that we cannot but think that greater care is necessary on the part of some nurses.

Apropos of our remarks on the opening for trained nurses in Mexico, we have been reminded that Mrs. Alec Tweedie nearly died in that city, and during a long and serious illness could not procure a trained nurse. She was bitten in the tropical country when riding through the scrub, and after a perilous journey back to the city suffered tortures from blood-poisoning. The abscesses were kept in freezing mixture for three weeks, and she was given tumblers of raw whisky to drink! The Mexican doctors were evidently right in their treatment, however, for she recovered, and has since written her volume on Mexico, which quickly ran into a third edition. Evidently thoroughly trained nurses are much wanted in the land of Montezuma; but no one with a weak heart must venture out there, as the city stands nearly 8,000 ft. above sea-level. Typhoid, small-pox, and blood-poisoning, coupled with pneumonia, are the most common diseases, although, on the whole, the climate is healthy.

In American hospitals the nursing of middle-class patients is made quite a feature. Thus, in the Kentucky School of Medicine Hospital many small wards and private rooms are set aside for their use, and the charges for board and lodging are so reasonable that the best hospital treatment is within reach of all. Those patients who cannot afford to pay for surgical treatment are not charged for operation. In this case they are operated on before the class. Special apartments are assigned to laparotomy, hysterectomy, and gynaecological cases. There is a training-school for nurses under the supervision of an experienced superintendent, Mrs. L. S. Parsons. It would be a boon to the middle classes of this country if similar arrangements could be made for their surgical treatment. At present, illnesses involving operation often mean straitened circumstances to the middle classes for many subsequent years.

Will competitors for the Prize Puzzle kindly note carefully the regulation that the words "Prize Puzzle" must be written on the outside of the envelope, and that failure to comply with this regulation disqualifies them for the prize.

The Hospital World.

THE KING AND QUEEN AT ST. PAUL'S.

On Sunday last the King and Queen gave practical proof of their interest in hospital work by attending a service at St. Paul's Cathedral, when a special appeal was made by the Bishop of Stepney on behalf of the London hospitals. Prominent in the great congregation was the uniform of the trained nurse, all the chief hospitals being thus represented. Nurses also flanked the passage on each side of the nave through which their Majesties passed to their places under the dome, and their presence helped to emphasise the special nature of the service.

The Bishop of Stepney, Canon in residence, said, in the course of an able sermon, that the one movement which lifts a man up to true nobility is the movement which brings him down to the needs and sufferings of his brethren. We are proud, he said, of the greatness of the City of London. But its size is a thing to appal, not to uplift, unless it speaks of one body in which the strong and the weak, the rich and the poor, are bound together by the ties of mutual help and common service. Its wealth is a mere golden idol upon feet of merest clay unless it is used as a trust for the public good, an opportunity for the exercise of compassion. Our hospitals stand in our midst as a constant reminder; "lest we forget, lest we forget" the true greatness of the City. St. Bartholomew's, witnessing in the very centre of the City to the kindness of an older time; the London Hospital, rising above the crowded streets of the East End; St. Thomas's, confronting the centre of the Empire's labours; St. George's, standing in mute appeal as the stream of wealth and luxury flows around it. The hospitals are voices calling to London, "Remember, O remember, the Lord thy God; remember the trust with which He has charged thee: remember the poor, the suffering; and the stranger at thy gates." There are many signs that the City is not deaf to the call—the King's Fund; the generosity of men such as he who has again come forward to stimulate his fellow-citizens; the steady growth of the Hospital Sunday Fund. All these are tokens of a quickening of the public conscience. But can it be said that the wealth of London has yet risen to the height of its opportunity? If it had, would it be possible that the annual deficit of the hospitals should be £250,000? Already there are ominous declarations that the strain of raising funds has reached the limit of endurance, and that ere long the hospitals of London must turn to the compulsory help of the rates. Doubtless a city can exercise much of its common service through its rates. Doubtless the skill of the physicians and the devotion of the nurses would not fail if the hospitals became

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