

THE COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE HOSPITAL.—The proposed enlargement of the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital will before long come before the Governors of that institution. The entire scheme is estimated to cost something like £27,500, but it is proposed to carry it out in sections according to the means at command.

ROYAL HOSPITAL, RICHMOND, GOING AHEAD.—The Duchess of Albany has consented to perform the opening ceremony in connection with the new out-patient department, erected at a cost of several thousand pounds, at the Richmond Hospital. Her Royal Highness will also receive purses in aid of the Extension Fund. Recent gifts to the institution include two sums of £1,000 each and one of £5,000.

THE NEW ROYAL INFIRMARY, MANCHESTER.—The designs of Messrs. Hall and Brooke, of London and Manchester, for the new Royal Infirmary, Manchester, have been accepted. The cost of the new building will be over £300,000.

TEMPERANCE IN THE ARMY.—The Army Council has informed the secretary of the Royal Army Temperance Association that a plot of ground will be allotted to the Association in every barracks in England, Scotland, and Ireland whereon to erect temperance rooms, provided that they are built, furnished, and maintained by the Association.

ANTI-BEARING-REIN ASSOCIATION.—This useful Association has issued a brief report of the work done during the six months ending December 31st, 1903, a copy of which will be sent free on application to the Hon. Sec., *Animal's Friend*, 6, York Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.

FOOD FOR BABES.—Meat, potatoes, bread and cheese were stated at an inquest at Southwark recently to have been the food of a nineteen-months-old child which died in Guy's Hospital.

A MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH NEEDED.—Dr. F. G. Bushnell, of Plymouth, has perfected a scheme for a Public Health Ministry, based on the new defence and Army reorganisation schemes. Germany already has such a department, and the United States is moving in this direction—as, Dr. Bushnell says, all civilised States will eventually.

COMBATING TUBERCULOSIS.—M. Combes, the French Premier, is actively engaged in combatting consumption and alcoholism. As the result of a circular which he has recently issued on the subject of tuberculosis, three or four of the Paris hospitals are without delay to be reorganised for the reception of tuberculosis patients only.

THE PLAGUE AT JOHANNESBURG.—The cup of sorrow and suffering in the Transvaal has in recent years been filled to the brim, and the news that the country is now threatened by an outbreak of plague has occasioned widespread regret. The type seems a virulent one, as out of fifty-six cases reported (forty-nine coloured and seven white) there have been forty-three deaths. Amongst the victims are Dr. Marais, his wife, and eldest daughter, and Mr. A. R. McNeil, who attended Dr. Marais' family after his death.

Some Experiences of a Private Nurse on Board a Sailing Ship.*

An old desire of mine to travel was gratified some time ago by an offer to take charge of the wife of a sea captain, who chose to return to her native land by sailing ship rather than, as was suggested, by mail steamer. Knowing that the voyage would be a protracted one, the lady decided to engage a trained nurse with an obstetric training. I accepted, for the sake of my health and the chance of seeing another country.

All told, we were: my patient, American by birth, her husband, captain of the sailing ship, a young lady companion, two officers, and a crew of twenty. Our apartments were all one could wish, each of us having a nice airy room, containing fixtures for clothing and one large trunk; the box-room, bathroom, and lavatory being conveniently near. The cabins opened into a cosy, prettily-fitted saloon, forward of which was the dining saloon, whereinto opened the rooms of the first and second officers, cabin boy, carpenter, and other officers. Off this was a pantry and all possible conveniences for the after passengers. We, the privileged few, had, too, a fine deck, which was our constant rendezvous. The captain had taken every pains to make our habitation as comfortable as it was possible to be at sea. I shall always look back with pleasure to the months spent at sea and the many pleasant hours on deck.

We were two months out when our little visitor made her appearance, to the great excitement and delight of everyone. Her parents chose America as her birthplace, or as "near a birthplace as it was possible to get," for we were on the other side of the line in the Pacific, and the ship belonged to American owners. The American flag was hoisted to make clear her claim to the title of American. For seven or eight days previous to her birth we experienced terrific gales, in one of them a sail being carried away and timber blown from the deck. However, about three hours before she came the gales subsided, and perfect calm ensued, wherefore I suggested Pacific being added to her name. Everything went well with both mother and child, the former making a rapid recovery and the latter doing all in her power to thrive, which, indeed, it would have been difficult not to do in the lovely fresh air and bright sunshine in which the young lady spent the greater part of each day. In a large clothes-basket, lashed to the rigging, under a huge umbrella, and in charge of an intelligent and faithful little fox-terrier which would allow no one to come near his charge, she slept on and grew as quickly as was possible. Indeed, by the time we reached San Francisco she was an unusually fine

* From the *Australasian Nurses' Journal*.

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