

Our Foreign Letter.

FROM FLORENCE.

I have so much enjoyed meeting Miss Amy Turton in Florence and learning more of her work.

She is a most delightful woman, whole-souled and full of optimism and energy. I took dinner with her one evening, and was shown over the whole house.

The "Casa di Cura" under her charge is a private hospital, and a pleasanter or more home-like one could not be found. It must be a great boon to English-speaking people who are travelling or living in Florence to know that in case of need they can take refuge in this quiet and well-kept home. Miss Turton was fortunate in obtaining for her purpose a fine old villa, one of the spacious, high-ceilinged, and many-roomed houses with which the environs of Florence are filled.

She has made in it the necessary changes and additions to fit it for its purpose. It has a very complete and modern operating-room, and all the various necessities of a home hospital. The rooms are truly Italian in their generous size, charmingly furnished, with open wood fires, and windows looking out over long stretches of Italian gardens and rolling hills. Miss Turton's energy is shown in various directions, and another evidence of her work is a convalescent home for women and young girls, which is also located on a smiling hillside near Florence.

The convalescent home was begun twelve years ago, and was, I think, in the first instance the outcome of Miss Turton's visits in the hospitals. The Countess Angelica Rasponi, of Florence, has always been the president of the group of women who established, and still support, the convalescent home, and Miss Turton the secretary. This Home is nursed by nuns, and has grown from six beds to twelve.

What I particularly admired in Miss Turton was her affection and fellow-feeling for the Italians and the problems of Italian hospital work. Indeed, she has become quite Italianised, as seems to be the case with so many English people who live in Italy and love it.

There is much that is puzzling about the status of hospital work there, and it will take a long time to modernise it. Miss Turton has promised to write something for the meetings in Berlin, though I could not, unfortunately, extract a definite promise from her to be there in person.

She took me over the "Ospedale Meyer," a hospital for children, entirely modern and very beautiful; also very well managed from the standpoint of scientific medicine. The hospital is in the charge of religious Sisters, and Miss Turton's lay pupils are also trained there. It has a very complete service, including infectious cases, and rooms where passive exercises and gymnastics are given as part of the treatment of orthopaedic cases. The resident physicians have fine equipments for laboratorial research, microscopy and photography, and for their libraries and records. Besides being, as it seemed to me, unusually advanced on the scientific side, these young men find time, I think, for much of the higher parts of nursing in the watching of critical cases, and this seemed to give them (if a nurse may be permitted to say so) an added attraction. The Sisters keep the whole hospital in beautiful order, and it was altogether a most interesting visit.

L. L. DOCK.

Professional Review.

AN ANATOMICAL MODEL.

Nurses have little opportunity of learning anatomy in the thorough manner upon which so much stress is laid in the case of the students of medicine, namely, by the study of the dead subject. They are therefore wise to avail themselves of models and anatomical atlases in connection with this branch of knowledge.

In this connection "Phillips' Anatomical Model of the Female Human Body" appears admirably adapted to serve a useful purpose. It is edited by Mr. W. S. Furneaux, and published by Messrs. George Philip and Son, Ltd., 32, Fleet Street, E.C., price 4s. net.

In addition to the model, in which the various portions of the body, such as the skeleton, the muscles, the nervous system, the heart and blood vessels, and the internal organs, are admirably shown, the contents of this publication include a concise sketch of the anatomy of the female body. Thus the introductory remarks state:—"The whole body is made up of minute cells, so small that they are visible only under the microscope, together with intercellular substance that fills up the spaces between them. The cells are of various forms, and are arranged in a variety of ways. Generally they are more or less globular in shape, but are often oval, cylindrical, columnar, or flattened.

"Cells of the same kind unite to form various tissues and organs, and each one has its own particular function to perform. Thus, some, like those of the outer skin, are merely protective; others form the linings of cavities or the coverings of internal organs; some have the power of preparing certain fluids from the materials of the blood; and others the power of contraction, and, therefore, of producing motion. Intercellular substance is also very variable in its nature. It may be liquid, as in the blood, or solid and hard, as in bone."

The text goes on to describe in detail the skin, the skeleton, the muscular system, the heart and blood vessels, the respiratory system, the digestive system, the urinary apparatus, the female reproductive organs, the nervous system, and the organs of the senses.

The lymphatic system, that *pons asinorum* of many a probationer, is described as follows:—"Nourishing matter passes from the blood into the various tissues of the body, oozing out through the exceedingly thin walls of the capillaries, and the total quantity of blood in the vessels would rapidly diminish if there were not some means of collecting up the fluid matter that escapes in this way, and to conduct it back to the vessels from whence it came." The method by which this is accomplished is then detailed, and the work of the lymphatic or absorptive system clearly indicated. Thus the capillaries of this system absorb the fluid part of the blood which has passed into the tissues and convey it to the lymphatic vessels, which convey the lymph to one or other of two lymphatic ducts which lead into large veins at the base of the neck. The vessels of the lymphatic system communicate with numerous lymphatic glands, which assist in building up the materials of the blood, and which readily become inflamed in the event of injurious substances being absorbed.

Every hospital Matron who holds classes for probationers, and every Home Sister whose duty it is to impart the elements of anatomy, has felt the difficulty of doing so with any degree of accuracy. These models shown help materially to lessen the difficulty.

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