

promise of an assured position in South Africa. It really is not right to encourage trained nurses to come here under any other circumstances. Then are the best home-made nurses sent to the colonies, because many recently-trained women don't seem overburdened with grit. We hear much of the palatial Nursing Homes in London—white drawing-rooms and cerulean swimming-baths, and exquisitely manicured aseptic hands; but does all this luxury fit women to colonise? It would seem not, by the numerous failures made by many nurses who come out, and who seem to imagine a real good time the first requisite of a nurse's existence; and here, up country especially, a woman needs grit, common sense, and good health.

STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

You know in Cape Colony trained nurses are registered by the Cape Colony Medical Board. Of late the organisation of nursing has been freely discussed by the Council, and a sub-committee was appointed to consider amendments of the Regulations for the training of nurses. This sub-committee has recently reported to the Board, and Clause 1 suggested extending the period of training to four, instead of three years; not that it was considered necessary for the training of a nurse in a large hospital, but to help the smaller hospitals to get probationers, for at least one year; the extension was purely dictated by a desire to get over the difficulty raised by the small institutions, but upon the proposal of Dr. Greathead the present term of curriculum of three years was continued. This standard is in force in Natal and the Transvaal, so that reciprocity is possible.

Clause 2 recommended that no training-schools be recognised, saving such as were specifically put on a list by Resolution of the Council. This was adopted unanimously.

Clause 6 suggested that the hospitals in Cape Colony be requested to supply the Council with information on all the points affecting recognition, which was adopted.

Clause 8 suggested that the requirements of all the South African colonies be as nearly uniform as possible.

Clause 10 suggesting that representations should be made to the authorities of training hospitals to arrange three turns of duty during twenty-four hours was negatived, as it was pointed out that three hours off duty was allowed daily, and the night duty was short.

The most important regulation adopted provides that no examinations in South Africa, other than those of the Council, will be recognised. This latter decision is most important, as it does away with all ambiguity of standard, and provides one portal to the nursing profession in each colony, the only means by which uniformity can be attained. I wonder when this reform will be attained in Old England?

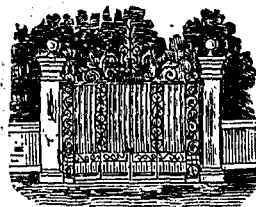
SISTER AFRICANUS.

The Night is mother of the Day,
The Winter of the Spring,
And ever upon old Decay
The greenest mosses cling.
Behind the cloud the starlight lurks,
Through showers the sunbeams fall;
For God, who loveth all His works,
Hath left His Hope with all.

—Whittier.

Outside the Gates.

THE FIRST UNIVERSAL ESPERANTO CONGRESS.



Boulogne-sur-Mer is an ancient town, and one which in its day has seen many strange sights. It has done its share in the making of history, and has repeatedly been the scene of warfare and of preparations for warfare. B.C. 54 saw Julius Caesar sail hence to conquer

Britain. In 1805 Napoleon waited here with *la grande armée* in readiness to cross over and make England the new scene of his triumphs, being prevented only by the tidings of the Battle of Trafalgar and of the alliance between Austria and Russia.

These were indeed momentous occasions, when mighty issues hung in the balance. And who can prophesy how weighty and how far-reaching will be the effect of the peaceful, and, let us hope, peace-bringing event which is to take place in Boulogne this year from August 5th to 13th. During that time an Esperanto Congress will be held, at which Dr. Zamenhof, the inventor of Esperanto, the new universal language, will be present.

Picture to yourself the converse of the Tower of Babel—a huge gathering of divers nations and tongues, but possessed of a common language belonging to no one people more than to another. They meet in all amity for business and for pleasure; the amusements include concerts, at which songs and recitations in Esperanto only will be performed, a ball, a grand fête in honour of Dr. Zamenhof, excursions by land and water, sea-fishing and a steamer cruise in the Channel with calls at Dover, Folkestone, and Calais. And when you have imagined all this you will have some idea of the coming Esperanto Congress.

It is not in the idea itself, but in the realisation of it that the novelty lies, and one wonders whether Solomon were not just a little mistaken for once. Is there after all something new under the sun?

The grammar and construction of Esperanto are so simple that they can be grasped in a few hours, and one can soon learn to read and understand. I am of opinion, however, that to speak fluently, and still more to attain a perfect literary style, would require careful study. To quote from a contemporary "The vocabulary is small, but the power of word formation upon the given radical words by means of fixed and definite rules gives to Esperanto a wealth of resource and precision of expression almost incredible to one who has not studied it for himself."

I think no one could fail to derive both pleasure and profit from learning it; but to nurses it would prove particularly useful, and as years go by increasingly so. What a blessing it would have been to a doctor friend of mine who had a large practice in one of the continental inland watering places and to whom patients were sent from every country in Europe. "Ach," he said to me, with a sigh that was the result of the overstrain which robbed the world of his presence all too soon, "my nurses and I have not time to learn all languages, and for our purpose we require an appreciation of the exact shade of meaning in words which would entail much study. Numbers of patients can-

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