

probably outraged at first, the foremost ladies of Japan strenuously set to work. They regularly met in order to practice nursing, and thus the nation was persuaded that it was no longer unwomanly but meritorious and praiseworthy to nurse strange men. Soon ladies of all classes flocked to the training centres, and thus the doctors were enabled to select those who appeared to be the fittest for their task. On the whole they discouraged society ladies, whose services might have been secured gratis, but who might have been less amenable to hospital discipline. Therefore nursing was made a paid profession, and the nurses were to receive an adequate salary when, by a long practical course of training and by a severe practical examination, they had proved their ability."

A correspondent writes that she recently offered her nursing services to the Kent Hop-picking Mission, having learnt of the work of the mission and its needs through this Journal. The vacancies for nurses are now all filled, and she thinks that other nurses who may be contemplating volunteering for this work may be glad to be acquainted with the fact.

The Countess of Dudley, who is with the Viceroy at Inver Lodge, in Galway, has paid a visit to Donegal for the purpose of seeing the nurses stationed there under the nursing scheme which she has established, and in which she takes so much interest. Her Excellency crossed over to the Island of Arranmore, where the people are extremely poor, and where the nurse sent under her auspices has proved of the greatest advantage.

At a recent meeting of the Cape Colony Medical Council the Report of the Examinations for Trained Nurses and Midwives was brought up by the President, Dr. C. F. K. Murray, and the Hon. Dr. Petersen, and adopted. The Examiners reported that the standard attained by the nursing candidates had been good throughout. Some of the midwives had reached a very high standard, but some had been much below the minimum number of marks. They expressed their thanks to the authorities of the New Somerset Hospital for the facilities given them for conducting the examinations.

District nurses in this country have during the spell of hot weather in July seen something of the sufferings of the poor in the crowded houses of poor quarters, but they are quite eclipsed by the conditions prevalent on the East Side of New York during that month. Miss J. E. Waters, a resident in the Nurses' Settlement, Henry Street, where in the large airy rooms the thermometer was stationary at 87 deg. and 90 deg., has graphically described in a contemporary the condition of her poorer neighbours. She says of "A Night on New York's East Side":—

"Leave the broad streets with the miles upon miles of empty houses, and take a car to Third Avenue, go down that thoroughfare to the Bowery, and walk east. The streets, the sidewalks, the gutters even, are full of people. From babies but a few days old to grandfathers and grandmothers, all seemingly are in the streets.

"Surely the tenements are tenantless to-night? But now glance up at the fire-escapes, every one packed with all sizes and ages. Thin, white, listless faces hang over the railings looking down at the shifting crowds below. But take care—as we look up we forget the scraps of humanity at our feet, and jump aside just in time to escape stepping on a baby. Across the street, a family of five children have chosen a grating over an ill-smelling cellar for their bed. Four little boys with their heads and weak bodies resting on the iron bars are fast asleep. The little mother—about ten years old—is slowly pulling off her stockings, preparatory to following their example.

"Baby carriages line the curbstones with one, two, and three children in each. Fathers and mothers have brought down chairs, and are gossiping with friends and neighbours, or leaning their heads wearily upon one arm and trying to sleep. But most pathetic of all seem the groups that have no chairs or baby carriages, and that crouch close to the buildings, their backs against the houses, and their legs drawn up painfully under them, as they dare not stretch out across the sidewalks.

"Haggard, white faces have these people.

"Here we are at one of the few—the woefully few—little parks of the neighbourhood. Can we enter—can we push through that crowd that seems tethered to the spot? The people move little, fearful that they will lose their places and be pushed out on to the hot pavements again. They stand dejectedly looking at their neighbours, or talking in low tones. Bench after bench is filled with men, women, and children who have come there to spend the night. They sit there shoulder to shoulder, while dozens of those standing watch with eager eyes the chance to push into the first vacant seat. Back of the seats are many little children sleeping or playing in the grass. They put out their hands to touch it. They move their little bare legs over it. They stretch out at full length and gaze up at the stars—those twinkling lights that tenement-house children so rarely see.

"And this is a park! How quickly one's mind jumps to that other park, far away from all these lights and sounds, where the new world's palaces and mansions loom up in darkness, and the surrounding streets seem like a city of the dead, as their owners pass the summer in Europe, at the mountains, or by the sea. How colossal seems that park for the wealthy, how pitifully small and inadequate is this treeless little space for the poor!

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