

why so many "English nurses crowded to South Africa," surely not because England must be a "gran' place to live out of?"

Miss Kenealy's own common sense must tell her that there are good and bad in the professions of all countries, and even England cannot produce perfection.

It is certainly a regrettable fact that it has remained for an English nurse, who has managed to live for eight years amongst "colonials," and who has doubtless accepted their hospitality, to spread broadcast a statement at once erroneous and unfavourable to the people and nurses of the Colonies.

Such sweeping statements as those Miss Kenealy has made in regard to the morality and honour of the men and women of South Africa, only serve to make one think again that she has been unfortunate in regard to those she has met with. So far, at least, as Australian nurses are concerned, her opinions are in direct opposition to those of English women who hold positions of trust and importance in our Nursing World, and whose experience of Australian nurses' work and training is considerably greater than that of Miss Kenealy.

I regard it as unfortunate that any English woman should allow such a spirit of insular superiority to influence a letter concerning a people who have still some liking and admiration for the Mother Country, and that, despite the fact that so many English people have done, and are doing, their best or worst to destroy that feeling.

Let me conclude with the hope that Miss Kenealy may some day allow that well trained and conscientious nurses may exist even in the Colonies.

AN AUSTRALIAN NURSE.

June 13th, 1906.

[In a communication to this Journal on Private Nursing in South Africa, Miss Henrietta Kenealy wrote on December 30, 1905, as follows:—

"But Australia has also sent a large contingent of nurses during and since the War. That, it seems to me, is not so well—for South Africa. The Australians can always take care of themselves. Australia must be, as is said of a portion of Great Britain, 'a gran' place to live out of,' so many of its people flock to South Africa. And Australasian nurses are apt to cut the ground from under English feet. They are more used to 'roughing it,' and, not having our traditions and conventionalities and systems of etiquette, 'they do not mind things' that jar on English women terribly.

"Without being so well trained or so conscientious in their work as English nurses, those from other Colonies know the market and the methods of the market-place better than we do, and so they have the advantage in the struggle for Colonial existence."

And in a subsequent article she also expressed opinions not altogether flattering to colonial South Africans. But we feel convinced that she had no intention of hurting the feelings of the Australasian Nursing World. It is a fact that all sorts and conditions of nurses met together in South Africa, and some most unflattering opinions have been expressed in our home papers of the doings of English as well as colonial nurses, but, of course, these black sheep were the exception and not the rule. We as a body

did not feel in the least disturbed by such criticism. We do not think that there is any fear of "a false impression of the training and work of Australasian nurses" being gathered by the readers of this "widely read journal." We keep well before their notice the splendid progress made in nursing organisation, education, and training in Australasia, and could only wish, as we have often said, that the same unanimity was manifest in the nursing world at home. In our opinion the capacity "to rough it" is a compliment. Are we not constantly hearing that the English trained nurse's want of initiative in new countries is a considerable inconvenience to her patients and that she wants too much waiting upon? That, in fact, she is a fancy not a useful article when removed from the environment of home. We are insular, and are ready to own that a good gallop over the Karoo, or a little camping out in the bush would materially extend our power of vision. But we are not touchy; is it possible that our colonial sisters are a wee bit so?—*Ed.*]

Comments and Replies.

Traveller.—The trip to Copenhagen, allowing 10s. a day for expenses, will cost at least £11, starting August 4th and returning to London on August 15th. As so many intelligent women of all nations intend to be present to honour the memory of Susan B. Anthony, it is sure to be a most delightful gathering. Hotel Kongen af Danmark, Copenhagen, will be headquarters for the delegates.

C. M. P.—Do not enter any training school where you will be sent out private nursing until after your three years' consecutive training in the wards. In these days when a nurse's advancement in her profession depends so much on having been thus thoroughly trained, it is inexcusable of the authorities of training schools to compel these probationers—usually ignorant of professional matters—to sign a contract which is injurious to their future career. State Registration would protect the nurses' interests, and it is therefore opposed by business men, who naturally wish to obtain absolute power over the women they employ. That is the plain fact, and no specious arguments can alter it. Of course, the lay nursing press either supports the employers or sits on the hedge. It is not good business to oppose those who give out highly-paid advertisements. We nurses have got to realise the ethics of the "Jungle" even in this highly moral land.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

Those nurses who are working on behalf of the above Society, and are endeavouring to spread knowledge as to its aims, may be glad to know that they can now obtain a Memorandum, giving briefly the reasons why Registration is necessary, from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Price 6d. for 20 copies.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page viii.

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