

mountain peaks covering their heads at sunrise in a misty cloud like true daughters of the East. The hungry eye has, indeed, a surfeit of beauty laid out before it, and wanders from North to South attempting to take it all in at once, and then revelling in its detail.

The butterflies flit about the open spaces in great variety, and gorgeous colouring, and one can soon collect remarkably fine specimens.

The monkeys play "hide and seek" in the trees' tops.

At nightfall fireflies may be seen floating from shrub to shrub; the hungry jackals howl, and the lonely hyena adds its peculiar cry to the chorus. The panther's stealthy thud is heralded by the terrified clucking of fowls, and occasionally a goat or a cow goes amissing from the homestead, a prey to the depredating panther.

A railway is laid up the mountains from Mettapolliam to Coonoor, 17 miles. It winds up, and round, and through cuttings of solid rock, over culverts, rushing torrents, and waterfalls of limpid water falling hundreds of feet below. The train goes slowly panting up at the rate of four to six miles an hour, and peak after peak is gained, and still up we go until we think we surely see the summit tipped with azure, and on we go; and then we find our peak is topped by others.

After three and a half hours we really get to Coonoor, if we are fortunate enough to get all the way up without changing. During the rains the line is frequently washed away, when all heavy luggage has to be taken from Mettapolliam by road. Freightage is very heavy.

Coonoor is a beautiful spot. It has a club, library, racecourse (or gymkhana), a public park, and a market, or shandy, as it is locally called.

The road winds up to Wellington, wooded with eucalyptus trees, which, by the way, are the chief source of fuel supply. In the evening one delights in the warm log fires, in quaint stone fireplaces. The eucalyptus leaves collected as kindling material ignite with a fizz, and a blaze, and a pleasant, pungent odour, and the logs give out a steady warmth that is very comforting.

The climate in the Nilgiris is somewhat like that of the South of England in the summer months.

The nursing outlook in the Nilgiris is not good.

The people who come to the hills are those who are well enough to undertake the journey, and do not, as a rule, require much nursing.

Nurses, as a rule, are not well paid, and it is very difficult to get steady employment.

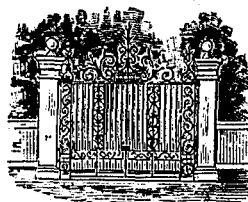
It is a risky speculation to start a nursing home in the hills. On the plains it might be more successful provided one had means to fall back upon in case of need, and definite prospects.

I believe there are many good, civil appointments in India where British trained nurses are desirable, but nurses trained in the country are mostly employed, and the salary paid in many instances is insufficient to support an Englishwoman comfortably, though many medical men realise that the standard of nursing might be raised by the introduction of British trained nurses.

A.G.F.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



Mrs. Eva McLaren, Lady Knightley of Fawsley, Miss Isabella O. Ford, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, and Mrs. Cooper, have recently addressed a letter to the Prime Minister, asking him to move in the House

of Commons that they may be heard at the Bar in support of a Petition to remove the electoral disabilities of their sex.

The petitioners stated in their letter:

"We have in preparation a Petition to the House of Commons, praying for the removal of the electoral disabilities under which women labour, and we ask you, sir, as you are convinced of the justice of our claim, and consider that we have made out a conclusive and irrefutable case, that you will be so good as to move, when our Petition is presented to the House, that we, the petitioners, belonging severally to the Liberal, Conservative, Unionist, and Labour parties, should be allowed to appear at the Bar of the House of Commons in support of the prayer of our Petition.

"You may possibly consider at first that this is an impossible thing for the House to allow, but apart from the fact that women, we believe, have in past times appeared at the Bar in support of a petition, our request to be allowed this privilege is on a different footing from that on which men could base a similar request.

"Men have always been represented in the House. Though all classes have not recently been represented, still their sex has. Any case, therefore, which they wish to bring before the House can always be explained for them by men, and from a man's standpoint.

"Our demand for enfranchisement, except when you, sir, were so good as to receive the deputation last May, has never been officially stated by persons of our own sex to those directly responsible for the Government of the country, and the amending of the laws.

"We claim that women are loyal subjects of His Majesty the King, equally with men; their record of crime, as shown in the official reports, is less than one-eighth of that of men; they contribute their share of taxation to the Exchequer; the women of the professional classes contribute by their work to the wealth of the community; while the domestic work of women contributes in a manner which can hardly be measured to the well-being of the nation, and the devotion of large numbers of women to social reform of various kinds has had an ameliorative effect of great value on the condition of the country.

"We, therefore, hold that in all these respects women have shown themselves to be good and dutiful citizens, and we believe we are within our constitutional rights in begging you to ask the

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