

of a cottage, when we stumbled upon the bodies of a woman and her six children. Fruitlessly we were examining for any lingering sign of vitality, when we were interrupted by a hoarse, grief-stricken voice, and a soldier burst in upon us. He cast one awful look upon the corpses and staggered back without uttering a sound, his body shaking convulsively. Then he turned slowly away. He appeared to hesitate a moment, but suddenly, before we had the slightest chance to prevent him, he drew his revolver and shot himself dead through the head."

Meanwhile Sir James Crichton Browne expresses the opinion that apart from the loss of life and suffering involved—a very large exception—the disaster may be regarded as a blessing in disguise, and the people of Jamaica may take comfort from the knowledge that Kingston will be rebuilt on "sound sanitary lines" "cleansed and fortified." Platitudes such as these, uttered from afar, bring cold comfort to the mother whose arms are aching to enfold the children she has lost, to the distracted husband and father driven to madness by his anguish, and no doubt are responsible for the dislike of many to modern science, the disciples of which appear to them, at times, to be lacking in the gift of sympathy.

Nurses, and especially Irish nurses, will congratulate Lady Dudley on coming unscathed through the terrible ordeal.

Those who have visited the grand old charity hospital in New York, the Bellevue, know how much splendid work was done there, although it required modernising. That has been done, and the New Bellevue, together with five of the smaller city institutions, are now grouped together for training purposes, under the superintendence of Miss Annie W. Goodrich, one of the most able nursing organisers in America, who made many international friends at the Berlin Congress. Miss Goodrich is to have her own apartment, not connected with any of the hospitals, and it is stated that her compensation is to be the most liberal received by any woman engaged in nursing work.

In England the Matron of the London Hospital enjoys this substantial distinction, as she receives a much larger salary than any of her colleagues, and the committee provide her with a residence at Bexhill, connected with the hospital by telephone, where she spends much time—as well as a house attached to the Nursing Home of the hospital.

We are in favour of women's work being well paid—it proves that it is appreciated.

It is related (we confess the announcement savours somewhat of the American sensational press) that two nurses of the City and County Hospital, San Francisco, have not been outside the walls of the institution since the middle of October owing to their failure to comply with an order of the Board of Health which instructed every nurse to furnish herself with white shoes and stockings and to wear no others. The nurses agreed that their income did not permit of their carrying out this direction and sent a petition to the Superintendent of Nurses. Eventually the order came back that any nurse who appeared in black shoes and stockings should not be allowed to leave the grounds. One by one the nurses gave in with the exception of two who still hold out.

The order seems a strange one in this country, but it must be remembered that most nurses in the United States wear white uniforms and that therefore white shoes and stockings are in keeping. It is no doubt based on hygienic grounds; black indoor shoes are seldom cleaned, and black stockings can hide many a microbe. In crossing open spaces in passing to and from the wards some contamination of footgear is inevitable, and we think all nurses going out of doors in indoor shoes should make a point of wearing rubbers. At the same time, while doctors and students visit the wards in muddy boots it seems futile to declare war on the comparatively inoffensive shoes of nurses. The damage done to highly-polished boards by men's boots is also considerable, and those nurses who went to Berlin in 1904 and visited the Palace of Sans Souci, will remember that their feet were encased in felt over shoes before they were permitted to tread on some of the beautiful inlaid floors.

In tropical climates, where mosquitoes bite through one's stockings, that they should be white is a matter of some importance, as ulcers often occur in the sodden tissues inoculated with the irritating injection of the mosquito, and these may become poisoned by the dye in coloured stockings.

The Passing Bell.

The Board of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, in their recent quarterly report, referred with deep regret to the death of Miss E. M.

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