

feels interested in nursing may become a member, with the right to vote upon all matters concerning the interests of both the nurses and their profession. Was it, perhaps, from the motive of showing the superfluity of the request of *Nosokomos* for State supervision, that those regulations were sent? It would really seem as if the *Bond* were satisfied with the *status quo*!

I would, however, draw your attention to the fact that last year the *Bond* passed some highly reactionary resolutions, which will be of great harm to the profession. To begin with: to be admitted to the *Bond's* examination it is no longer obligatory to have had a three years' training in a general hospital of at least 40 beds, but small hospitals, some of which have no more than 20 beds, are duly recognised as training-schools, a special commission, chosen by the Board of the *Bond* deciding which hospital shall be recognised a training-school, and which not.

The second resolution is that certificated mental nurses shall be qualified for the *Bond's* examinations after a course of training of a year and a half in a hospital.

The deplorable resolution, that nurses trained in a children's hospital shall be admitted to the examination for general nursing was passed some years ago.

You will certainly concede that these decisions are fraught with danger for the nursing profession, because in this way many incapable, partially trained nurses will obtain a certificate, which qualifies them as capable to nurse all branches of sickness.

The nursing standard will thereby be lowered rather than raised.

A SECOND PETITION.

As to the members of the Second Chamber, the opinion was universal that State Examination should be compulsory. However, certain political parties objected to State interference in regard to the training. In order to prove the absolute necessity for the State fixing an uniform test for the nurse's capacities, *Nosokomos* resolved to send in a second Petition, addressed this time to the Second Chamber, and which left no doubt that the practical training is still very defective.

I will write to you of this next week.

J. A. VAN LANSCHOT-HUBRECHT.

WOMEN NURSES IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY.

A Bill has been introduced into the House in the United States with the object of securing the employment of women in the Navy. The Bill provides that the Surgeon-General of the Navy shall appoint the following women nurses for the Navy: One Superintendent, and as many chief nurses, nurses, and reserve nurses as may be needed, who must be graduates of hospital training schools, whose course is not less than two years. The term of appointment is for three years, and "should the interests of the Service require" it may be revoked at any time.

Our Foreign Letter.

A MORNING RAMBLE.

Oporto, Feb. 26th.



This morning we went shopping, and on our way passed a Punch and Judy show. Among the crowd of on-lookers was

a fish woman, who had sold all her fish, and had put her baby in the empty basket, along with a loaf of bread, and a bottle of wine, said basket being carried upon her head. I suspect there would be an inquest if an English woman tried to carry her baby in such a fashion. Another woman had a huge jar of water upon her head and a baby in her arms.

Then we saw a man who had his foot bandaged, evidently by a surgeon, and his head was also bandaged. There was nothing the matter with his head, but the poorer classes here always bandage their heads if they are on the sick list. More deaths occur in this country from head troubles than any other, so they tie up their heads as a precautionary measure. Another member of the crowd was a boy with a large basket of fruit, vegetables and flowers on his head, and a live fowl under each arm. Fowls are always sold alive here, and they are the meekest looking birds I ever saw. One would think they had been carried about all their lives. The cocks are a nuisance, though, for they crow all night. Shakespeare's Marcellus says that on the eve of Christmas "the bird of dawning" sings all night.

"And then, they say, no spirit dare stir abroad, The nights are wholesome, then no planets strike, No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charm, So hallow'd and so gracious is the time."

This is all very well once a year, but I would rather he did not "sing" every night.

Our way lay through some public gardens, where there is a large tree whose top was blown off by a cannon ball during the Peninsular War. The camellias are nearly over, but the rhododendrons are in full bloom, and many of the roses are out. The more delicate palms have umbrellas of straw to protect them from the cold. They have a very pretty fashion in these gardens of training roses round the trunks of trees. They flower all the year, though their best time is in May and June.

Leaving the gardens, we climbed a precipice that calls itself a street, at the top of which we did our shopping. In one establishment we were addressed as "your excellency," in the others we were merely "Senora," or "Madame." We were sold some cotton embroidery by weight instead of measure, which struck me as being decidedly quaint.

We returned by the General Hospital, which I am told was designed for London by Christopher

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