

Wren, but London would not have it because it was too large. It was to have been built in a square, with gardens in the centre; so for the Oporto hospital they took a little more than one side of the square, which it is said will accommodate five hundred patients. If Christopher Wren really did design it, he was in advance of his time in ideas, for there are beautiful balconies, and large windows and doors. The balconies are seldom used except as passages, and a sick Portuguese does not like an open window.

In the garden is a small hospital for paying patients, which is very new and up-to-date. It has a small theatre which we are allowed to enter, although they are preparing for an operation. The rooms seemed to me to be small, and each had two beds in it, so that the patients could have a friend to sleep there.

Doctors get no credit in this country when their patients recover, for it is always supposed to be due to some saint. There is one church here where throat cases go to pray, another for rheumatic folk, and a little church near Varzea is celebrated for a saint who is interested in legs. They have a shed outside the chapel in which are several hundred legs carved in wood, all given as thank offerings by the cured. At Lemego there is a church at the top of a very steep hill. It has over a hundred steps, and those in search of health climb them on hands and knees. But the chief pilgrimages are made to the churches of Mathosinhos, near Oporto, and Bom Jesus, at Braga. The pilgrimages last three or four days, and are attended by all classes, some coming all the way from Brazil; and they sometimes number over twenty thousand people. Some come to pray for health, others to give thanks and ask the saints to protect them and keep them in good health. When cured of their diseases, the very poorest will give a thank offering. On St. Vincent's Day all the mothers take their children to church to pray for his protection from small-pox. Faith is good, but personally I think it would be well to combine it with good isolation laws.

On our return we passed the Punch and Judy again. The boy with the patient hens was still there, and I wondered if the vegetables and fruit were wanted for someone's lunch. The show was just over, and its proprietors were preparing for their mid-day meal and rest.

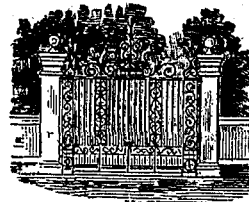
I wish the beggars with sores could find a saint to take pity on them. They are everywhere, though I am told there are not so many as there used to be. There are more than I care to see. I counted twelve during our morning's walk. We did not give to any of them, but said in answer to their entreaties, "Have patience!" It is considered rude to say "No" to a beggar.

MARY HARVEY.

It is feared that the on-coming famine will fill the hospitals of Central India with those most pitiful of cases—starvation cases—and yet the people of India require so little in the way of food—just a little rice and dal, or some other meal, and fruit and vegetables.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



The statue of Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, which is to be presented to the London Hospital, has now been erected in the grounds of the institution, and will be unveiled next May.

Members of Parliament who favour the further progress of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill intend to hold a meeting next week in order to consider the best steps to be taken with this object. It is believed that as a result a memorial will be framed for signature, and subsequently forwarded to the Prime Minister. It is expected that Sir Charles MacLaren will preside.

Croydon Borough Council has appointed Miss Sophie B. Jackson, M.D., daughter of Dr. T. Jackson, Coroner for the borough, as assistant to the Medical Officer of Health for school inspection purposes.

The following resolution has been passed by the Executive Committee of the Women's Total Abstinence Union: "The Executive Committee of the Women's Total Abstinence Union cordially welcomes the Licensing Bill of the Government, the main features of which they heartily approve. They call upon their federated societies to put forth every effort to arouse public opinion in favour of the Bill, and by the distribution of literature, the writing of letters to the Leaders of the Government and to their representatives in Parliament, attendance at United Demonstrations, the arrangement of Public Meetings, the adoption of resolutions, and in all other ways, to support the Government in their effort to pass the measure."

Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald, M.P., speaking at a demonstration at Leicester in favour of Women's Suffrage, said that they demanded on behalf of women the full right of citizenship, a right that they had earned by reason of the services they gave to society, and a right which society ought to take boundless pleasure in giving them. Until society had given them that right it could not express itself through legislation with the fullness and knowledge and with that experience that they required so much in the Twentieth Century. No Government could allow the present electoral law to remain much longer where it was now. They knew that women were in the factory and in the workshop contributing with the men to keep the family going, and they ought to give them the rights which should accompany those responsibilities.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)