

knows his staff individually. Then the delightful Madame Beaulieu, patroness of the hospital, seems to have the tact and power to charm all with whom she comes in contact, from highest to lowest; she is ever ready to console, advise, and help. Bertrand, too, is not without points; and of Victorine la Negresse we say, warmly, *C'est une brave femme*, in spite of her moral lapses, rough speech, and coarse manners.

This book will not be abortive; the French are sensitive and quick to respond to calls for justice and reform. As in the old days, when the gentle nuns nursed the sick, so to-day many honourable women are taking up the work with much more efficiency and no less zeal. We wish them God speed.

M.O.H.

[We received this book for notice some time since. We publish a review at the present time to show the conditions which have prevailed in some French Hospitals (as in our own not so long ago), with which M. Mesureur and his able colleagues in the *Assistance Publique* are so courageously grappling in their efforts to place nursing in the rank of an honourable and skilled profession for women, a work in which they need and should receive the warm sympathy and support of all nurses. We shall publish next week a most interesting paper by M. André Mesureur on the new Nursing School at the Salpêtrière.]

A Handy Note-book.

A VALUABLE INSURANCE COUPON.

The Nurse's Diary and Emergency Note Book for 1908, published by Scott and Bowne, Ltd., 10, Stonecutter Street, E.C., is one which should be a great favourite with nurses and midwives. It is likely to be of special use to midwives and maternity nurses, as it contains much information which it is convenient for them to have at hand in a small compass. It also gives information valuable to private nurses, such as on Invalid Transport, information as to making wills, emergency addresses, where oxygen can be obtained, and so forth. Added to this it contains an insurance coupon, and we should advise nurses to write for the diary, sign the coupon forthwith, and carry the diary for reference in a hand-bag or pocket. The insurance coupon ensures to the legal representative of a nurse or midwife killed in an accident £500, and for a lesser accident the holder is entitled to £250 or £100. Altogether "Scott's Emulsion" is much to be congratulated on producing so wonderfully convenient a "multum in parvo." A similar diary arranged with information convenient for medical practitioners is also published by this enterprising firm.

At a recent meeting of the Public Health Committee in Belfast the doctor in charge of the infectious diseases hospital reported that during the past four months, while the new serum was being used on spotted fever patients, the death-rate from that disease had fallen from 70 to 30 per cent.

Our Foreign Letter.

A MATRON'S HOLIDAY IN SYRIA.

DEAR EDITOR,—

Such a delightful holiday we have had in Syria, and you know how much I have always wanted to go there,



but funds were always at such a low ebb that I had to content myself with stray peeps at places nearer at hand.

We arrived in Beyrout one fine fresh morning in July at 4.30 a.m. by a French boat; waited until coffee was served, then sat on deck and had a good look at the town, which had all the attractions we had expected. The sea breeze was delightfully cool, and we flattered ourselves that we were in for a rest from the extreme heat we had been experiencing in other parts of the Levant. A commotion around us awoke us to the fact that a crowd of porters from different hotels, and the usual disturbers of one's peace, in the shape of dozens of natives of all castes and colours, were swarming over the boat looking for prey. Such a babel of tongues, such a jostling and tumbling as our baggage was hauled into the gaudily-coloured boats that were to take us ashore. A very fine-looking old Arab caught our eye, with the badge of the German Hotel in large letters on the breast of his jersey. He came up and asked us in broken English if we were going to his hotel. As it happened we were, so we happily handed over our baggage to his care and prepared for the trials of a Turkish Custom-house. We got through without any great difficulty, thanks to our passports, entered a small victoria, and were dashed through the streets, which were in a very bad condition, up-hill and down-hill, until, with a final crack of the whip, and a sharp pull-up of the horses, we were nearly precipitated through the open door of the hotel and into the arms of the proprietor, who was waiting for arrivals.

In spite of the earliness of the hour we were soon enjoying coffee, eggs, very inferior jam (which was all they had), and excellent brown German bread. A wash and brush up, and then we decided to take a carriage and our Arab dragoon and visit the bazaar before the heat, which we already felt was upon us.

Many parts of the town are very old and dirty, the roads being everywhere in a very bad state. The bazaars were quaint and picturesque, but lacked the variety one saw in other towns of the near East, a large European and American element (the latter having their schools, college, hospitals, and mission stations everywhere), being amongst all one saw. The fruit was excellent and abundant, and we bought small green figs and large red plums that were most delicious, the

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