

pened to turn up for one of the meals that the healthy bronzed-looking people sitting round the table were the much-dreaded consumptives. At one time we had quite a "distingué" company, consisting of a naval lieutenant, an army officer, and two doctors. No coughing was the order of the day, and it is certainly extraordinary what one can do in this line if one really tries.

Talking of consumptives, there was one thing I noticed about the Rest Cure. Just as in Lunatic Asylums one tries always to disguise the place as much as possible by endeavouring to make it look like a big park, by not printing the word "asylum" on the asylum note-paper, and generally, by making the place as cheerful as possible; so at Mount Pleasant one never called the place a sanatorium, and the word "consumption" was never mentioned. We were always called "Phthisis" or keeping "T.B.'s" (Tubercle Bacilli). Disagreeable facts were kept from one's notice, and very bad cases—hopeless—were sent home. Thus we were quite a jolly family. Mount Pleasant was only a small place, and people went there for nerves and rest cures, apart from being addicted to "T.B." This fact also helped one to imagine that one was also merely enjoying a rest cure, pure and simple.

After I had been under treatment for about three months and a half, I was allowed greater freedom, such as joining longer expeditions, and running up to London occasionally for the day.

At the end of five months I had lost the tired feeling and felt fit and strong and full of life. Moreover, I had gained two stone in weight. Dr. Williams then told me that I had been very bad when I arrived—a fact which I had not realised myself—such optimism is, I believe, a feature of the disease, but that I was now well on the road to complete recovery. He told me, however, I must not, by any means, imagine that I was quite well, and that it might take another two years before I was entirely rid of those pertinacious "T.B.'s." He recommended me to sojourn for some time in a high altitude in Switzerland in order to further complete the cure. Accordingly I left Mount Pleasant and it was with real feelings of regret that I saw the place disappearing from view from my seat in the dog-cart as I drove to the station. I have now been over a year in Switzerland, and am almost quite well. In another year I hope to be absolutely cured, and, to use a slang expression, to have completely "given the push to those persistent 'T.B.'s' which have caused me so much trouble."

Progress of State Registration.

THE STATUS OF FEVER NURSES.

Last week we considered some opinions placed by registrationists before the public in Scotland, touching on the status of fever nurses. In another column will be found an admirable letter from Miss E. A. Stevenson, whose wide professional experience and facile pen constitute her an admirable protagonist in support of the nurse's point of view, and we are entirely in sympathy with her arguments.

In Scotland certain Medical Officers of Health, who now largely control fever hospitals, are agitating for a Special Register of Fever Nurses. We last week argued why such a register would be injurious to the status of nurses working in hospitals for infectious diseases, although it would no doubt be a convenience to the authorities of Fever Hospitals. In the correspondence in the Scottish local press Dr. P. H. Robertson, M.B., a member of the Scottish Nurses' Association, and generously inclined towards the improvement of education and status for trained nurses as a whole, proposes an alternative policy in reference to the registration of fever nurses. We understood from the first letter that he would enforce a four years' course of training, three of which should be passed in fever hospitals, which training should be accepted as *full medical training*, and with one year's surgical training, should qualify for registration. This apparently was not his suggestion in its entirety. We will, therefore, quote a letter contributed by Dr. Robertson to the *Glasgow Herald* on September 29th.

"Dr. Munro has apparently misunderstood my proposal to give fever nurses certificates instead of establishing a separate register. Such certificates would be granted with the authority of the Council to be constituted under the Bill, and would therefore be 'statutory' certificates. Fever nurses either go on to get general training, in which case they would be put on the general register, or they remain in fever hospitals, in which case statutory certificates would be sufficient to enable them to move about. Were fever nurses to get employment to any appreciable extent in private, I would support a separate register, in spite of its minor drawbacks; but as they do not, I disapprove of such a register. It is unnecessary, and the fewer registers the better, beyond what is required. The difference between the two proposals is more on the surface than in the essence. With both the training and examination of fever nurses would be under the supervision of the Central Council; with both a list of those who had satisfied the examiners would be kept. The only difference is that in the one case the list would be published annually at considerable expense, while in the other it would be published, but certificates would be issued once."

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