

risks had been fully explained to them escaped infection, as also did the district nurse, the medical men, and the rector of Freston, the Rev. C. Durrant, and his daughter, both of whom fearlessly ministered to the sick.

Later the Public Health Committee requested their medical officer to make arrangements for four nurses to be immunised against plague, who should be available for special work in the country should the necessity arise; this was done early in November.

### Nurses of Note.

#### MISS ANNIE DAMER.

Miss Annie Damer, one of America's most able Superintendents and progressive social workers, is over in England for a long rest, after much arduous work. Miss Damer, who for one term has been President of the National Association of Nurses in the United States, is very desirous of coming into touch with nursing affairs in this country, attended the Garden Party at Guy's on Tuesday, and the meeting of the Matrons' Council at Winchester on Wednesday.

Miss Damer has recently been working at the Nurses' Settlement in New York, and previously organised the Tuberculosis Nursing Department at Bellevue Hospital. It is proposed to arrange facilities for the training of midwives at Bellevue at an early date, where the maternity service is to be largely extended, as numbers of foreigners, especially Russian women, are accustomed to their services.

Then great satisfaction has been given to the Bellevue Nurses' Association by the Training School Board, which has suggested that delegates from the nurses' organisation shall meet it in conference from time to time, to discuss nursing questions and points of difficulty. This is one of the most sensible things that could be done for the mutual benefit of the hospital and the nurses trained there. Of district nurses Miss Damer says there is not nearly a sufficient supply in America, and the pay is very good, the usual salary for a district nurse in the country being 75 dollars a month (£15). Of course they have to lodge and board themselves. Tuberculosis nurses are paid from 60 to 70 dollars in New York.

Miss Damer considers the most useful result of Registration Laws for nurses is the co-ordination of nurse training methods in the hospitals—the systematising of nursing education.

During her visit here Miss Damer will gain all the information possible about district nursing in the country and the treatment of tuberculosis in sanatoria. We are not quite sure where the "rest" is to come in.

### Our Prize Competition.

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Miss Emily Marshall, 123, New Bond Street, London, W., for her paper printed below on the following subject:—

#### MENTION SOME ABNORMAL APPEARANCES OF STOOLS, AND THE PROBABLE CAUSES OF THE CONDITION.

This subject is one of the most important in every-day life, and everyone should be instructed as to the care of the bowels and a regular action; also to observe carefully whether the stools are healthy and natural. Anything abnormal should be saved for the doctor's inspection. Healthy, natural stools should be brown in colour and float in water, except in the case of babies and invalids who take only milk food, the stools then would be yellow in colour.

*Constipation.*—An enormous number of people suffer from constipation, from different causes, the commonest cause being sedentary habits, and a mild laxative is necessary for a time until the habit of relief becomes "second nature."

*Diarrhoea.*—Babies are specially liable to diarrhoea, and the motions reveal generally masses of undigested cow's milk of putty colour appearance, offensive, and mixed with a greenish discharge. Common causes: Improper feeding and insufficiently cleansed bottles, tubes, and teats, impure water, etc. Looseness of the bowels is often Nature's way of clearing off some irritating article of food.

*Piles or Hæmorrhoids* are varicose veins of the rectum, either internal or external. Internal piles show their presence by bleeding, which, if copious, may be dangerous, though the loss of an ounce or two of blood may be of benefit to some people. Piles may suppurate and discharge pus.

*Bleeding from the rectum* may also be a sign of ulceration or inflammation of the bowels.

*Gall stones.*—A gall stone is a dried up mass of bile materials; when the stone is passed it sometimes causes violent pain on the right side, and with it blood may be passed in stool.

*Jaundice* stools are always putty colour, owing to the absence of bile from the liver.

*Typhoid.*—The stools are often of a pea-soup consistency with tendency to diarrhoea.

*Colitis.*—In this disease we find mucus or pus in stools and pieces of membrane, or even a cast of the bowel may be passed in membranous colitis.

*Worms.*—Various kinds are found in human beings, more especially the bowels of children. Tapeworm, a flat, long worm whitish like tape, with tiny head and tapering neck, the body

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)