

munity is the head nurse, a little old woman with kindness and happiness sparkling in her face, despite the furrows cut by a long life of toil and trouble. Her husband and son both died of leprosy, and after tending them during long years of illness, with periods of insanity in the case of the son, she is perfectly content to spend the rest of her life nursing others who are afflicted in the same way. Enveloped in a huge white overall, she trots about from one room to another, and it is surprising how deftly she dresses a wound, skilfully using forceps and cotton-wool to avoid contact with the diseased part. Then, as you approach, she smiles a welcome and shows a pretty set of little white china teeth—"adopted teeth"—as the Japanese say, and you think her little wrinkled face quite beautiful.

The work is not without encouragement even from the physical point of view, for in nearly all cases suffering is alleviated, and some have been discharged apparently quite recovered. One Sunday I arrived rather late for the service and on entering the chapel was amazed to see two healthy strangers sitting among the lepers. I felt inclined to interfere, but the pastor was ready to begin the service, so I said nothing and consoled myself by reflecting that at any rate they must know what sort of people they were sitting with. Afterwards I found that they were former patients: one was working in a mine and the other on the railway. The latter was in a plain navy serge uniform with brass buttons, and with his bonny sunburnt face looked like a healthy young "middy." But the doctors are very loth to boast of having cured any cases of leprosy, for it is a disease which is apt to disappear and reappear after a lapse of time.

Thus the work goes on relieving and comforting even where it cannot heal, and, more than that, the efforts and example of this one courageous woman have stirred up some of the leading spirits of modern Japan, to feel and work for their suffering brothers and sisters, and a beginning has been made in the establishment of Government hospitals for lepers. The task is a stupendous one, but the first step has been taken, and let us hope that the work will be carried out with all the strong common sense, thoroughness and courage for which the Japanese nation is justly renowned.

EVELINE W. CROPPER.

#### THERAPEUTIC INJECTIONS OF SEA-WATER PLASMA (A. & H.).

Messrs. Allen & Hanbury supply Sea-water Plasma in "Azoule" form in the following sizes:—

10 c.c. boxes of six	..	60s. per doz. boxes net.
30 c.c. " three	..	42s. " "
50 c.c. " "	..	24s. per doz. tubes net.
100 c.c. " "	..	36s. " "

Injection Outfit, consisting of five feet of india-rubber tubing, clip, platinum-iridium needle and bellows with air-filter, the whole in japanned metal box, 12s. 6d. net.

## OUTSIDE THE GATES.

### WOMEN.

No class of women in their fight for efficient education and legal status has suffered more from misrepresentation and unfair boycott—in a partisan press—than trained nurses; no class will therefore give a warmer welcome to the new departure in the *Standard*, which on Tuesday included the "Woman's Platform," to which fourteen columns were devoted—and in which articles by Lady Laura Ridding, on the National Union of Women Workers, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, L.L.D., on Woman Franchise, the Countess of Jersey, on Anti-Suffrage; How the Women's Vote would benefit the State, by the Countess of Selborne, Jewish Woman Suffrage, Women Doctors, Pit-Brow Women, and many other burning questions were to be found. It was a glorious beginning, and before long the Nursing question is to have a turn. We hope all the Registration pens will be well filled with ink ready for the fray.

Mrs. Charles Perrin has accepted the nomination of the Council of the Society of Women Journalists as President for 1911-1912, and will be introduced by the retiring President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, at the annual meeting of the Society on November 1st.

Miss Billington, the well-known member of the *Daily Telegraph* staff, will represent the Society at the Indian Durbar, and upon her return to England will meet her colleagues and give them a description of the brilliant function.

Mrs. Pankhurst left London on Wednesday for a tour in the United States. Her former visit, in 1909, when she pleaded, with irresistible logic and charm, the cause of women's enfranchisement, produced a deep impression on both men and women. An American friend wrote:—"Mrs. Pankhurst is inspired; we want her in the States all the time." On November 16th the great Suffrage Meeting is to be held at the Albert Hall, for which tickets are selling with their usual rapidity.

*Votes for Women* says:—"Politically, women have hitherto been classed with children and lunatics. It seems, however, that lunatics have a much superior position. In the last report of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum, the medical officer says: 'Two of my patients who had votes requested permission to exercise their political rights, and there being no medical reason why their request should be refused, they both voted.'"

There are now in England and Wales, by virtue of the Qualification of Women Act, 1907, fifteen women serving on Town Councils (two being Mayors) and four women serving on County Councils. These ladies are some of them unmarried women and some widows.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)