

To return to Hospital, the lectures are going on with the minimum of interruptions (do English doctors *ever* fail to give one? or not send a substitute if called away for some very urgent event?) to be expected in Italy. If all goes as well as—I mean with as few interruptions—we have calculated for, the exams will take place the last days of May or 1st of June, and once over holidays can commence in earnest.

Miss Snell sent an advertisement to last week's BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, so as to procure a few English nurses to help give holidays, and afterwards be ready for when she takes over new wards.

Miss Christina Shepherd (Marylebone Infirmary) has been appointed by Miss Snell to succeed Sister Brunt in men's medical and Miss Edith Watney (St. Bartholomew's) is appointed to Sister Reece's post, women's surgical, after having held for some time the "Sala di medicatura," a post which is no sinecure in Italy where dressings are not done in the wards.

In each of these wards a Florentine nun is acting as junior staff.

These two suore come from the famous St. Maria Nuova nursing order—one of if not *the* oldest nursing order in Europe.

Several new probationers will be admitted during the summer, with the same object—holiday giving—and preparation for fresh work, as the trained staff increase.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has already announced that Miss Snell and Princess Doria hope to attend the Cologne Congress. It is not easy to arrange decisively here; very unexpected events have a way of falling on one. But as Miss Snell has given me June and July for my holidays, we earnestly hope nothing will prevent her feeling free to leave us in August, and that she and Princess Doria, and (*possibly*, though not probably) Madame Maraini may find the Congress as delightful and exhilarating as the London (1909) one of happy memory.

The Red Cross ladies are all back "at their home duties": the *Menfi* having been—do you say "disbanded" or "suppressed" of a boat?—some weeks ago. It was considered an unnecessary expense having so many boats to transport comparatively few soldiers, for it seems that there was much difficulty in obtaining the wounded and sick, the hospitals in Tripoli and Cirenaica preferring to nurse them themselves.

The Duchess d Aosta has now recovered, and Miss Baxter told me of her promise to interest herself actively in the Croce Azzurro. If only Her Royal Highness could convince Pssa. di Strongoli of the necessity of obtaining a *Convitto* for the nurses, Miss Baxter's hopes (of the earthquake year) might at last be realized.

A. T.

The news of Mrs. Pankhurst's release from Holloway Prison will be received with widespread relief. On the advice of the Home Office the King has ordered the rest of her sentence to be remitted.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN.

Every one who reads the charming review of Frau Popp's "Autobiography of a Working Woman," in the current issue of *M.A.B.*, by Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald, M.P., will certainly desire to read this most human story. Mr. Macdonald writes: "One of the last acts of my wife's life was to arrange with Mr. Unwin for the publication of this book. She had come across it in the original German. She knew Frau Popp, whose hard life it unveils, and I well remember how both the story and the woman captivated her. . . . 'We must have it in English,' she said, 'and if every rich and contented woman in the land would but read it how wise she would become.'

"That will not happen. But it is a human document, written with the simplicity which is art triumphant. The tale needs no adornment of rhetoric and no pointing of morals. It is a chapter torn from the book of life, written as Nature writes, and left to produce its own effects on the mind of whosoever will read."

Frau Popp, who was born at Inzerschof, near Vienna, was at eight years of age earning money necessary for the family income. She is now the editor of one of the most influential women's papers published, and is a member of the Managing Committee of the German Social Committee in her native country. With all her many public and private cares and duties "she manages the little family of two which her husband left under her charge when he died in 1902 with a watchful affection which shows to those who know her privately how compatible public and domestic work are, and how she who seeks to mend the world is very often the woman who is most solicitous in guarding her own hearth."

Those women who know anything of politics fully expected an adverse vote in the House of Commons, on the second reading of the Conciliation Bill (Women's Franchise), last Thursday, so they were not disappointed when, as part of a *quid pro quo* for Home Rule, Mr. Redmond marshalled his Party against Votes for Women. How significant the whole matter becomes when one realises that four hundred years after the reigning Tudors defied the Papacy, and elected themselves Protectors of the reformed faith—British women are denied the citizenship of their own country by order of the Vatican! Indeed, the whirligig of time brings round its own revenges.

Then we have the Anti-Suffrage press abasing themselves before their hereditary enemies, the Home Rule Party—because "they have saved the country from colossal disaster," by their denial of the freedom they claim for themselves, to women. And, again, these same obtuse organs, which are entirely out of touch with modern thought, flatter themselves that by such injustice they have snuffed out Women's Suffrage! *Wait and See.*

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)