

ulcers form all over the body, and in some instances all three conditions are present together. It is trying, therefore, to find such wards painted a dark colour, and serge tablecloths used for the tables because they are supposed not to show the dirt. Added to this, at night the patient's friends take possession when the nurse goes off duty, and close up the windows until morning. The atmosphere is therefore better imagined than described.

A nurse evidently wants plenty of spirit and courage to work in the Bush. Miss Michaelis, a member of the Bush Nursing Committee, speaking at Melbourne, related several stories of the varied calls made upon the nurses. Nurse Tucker (Beech Forest) and Nurse Hearne (Buchan) gave accounts of some of the cases they were called upon to attend. Forty and fifty miles' riding astride up mountain tracks 2,000ft. above the sea-level was quite an ordinary episode in the experience of Nurse Hearne, while Nurse Tucker spoke of having on one occasion walked five miles in three-quarters of an hour to attend a serious case.

We regret to learn that, owing to prolonged ill-health, Miss Sarah E. Sly, R.N., the President of the American Nurses' Association, has been compelled to resign the position. The duties of the office will now be discharged by Miss Isabel McIsaac, R.N., the first Vice-President, who, it will be remembered, presided at the International Congress of Nurses at Buffalo in 1901.

It is with pleasure we announce that the nurses of Louisiana, U.S.A., have succeeded in obtaining the passage of a Registration Bill; the difficulty soon will be to find a State where a Registration Law is not in force.

Miss Jane Bell, Matron of the Melbourne Hospital, and formerly Matron of the Brisbane Hospital, writing to the *Australasian Nurses' Journal*, comments on the fact that of the five members of the Queensland Registration Board three medical men are already appointed, and it is only *when nurses are registered* that they are to have the privilege of electing to represent them the remaining two of the members constituting the Board. We agree with Miss Bell as to the importance of trained nurses taking part in the administration of the Act while the electorate is being created. In the Nurses' Registration Bill in this country the danger of non-representation during this important period has been foreseen and provided against.

KLEINE WEISSE SKLAVEN* (WHITE CHILD SLAVES.)

"La misère de l'homme? Il faut voir celle de la femme. La misère de la femme? Il faut voir celle de l'enfant!"

With these words from Victor Hugo's "Les Misérables," Sister Henriette Arendt opens the introductory lines of the story of her revelations of child slavery in our so-called Christian lands to-day. In this, the century which has been called "The Century of the Child," numberless children are living in a hell upon earth, their little lives spent in circumstances of agonising misery. She gives a brief review of the history of philanthropic and governmental child-rescue from early times. Coming down to our day, she closes her introductory chapter by commenting on asylums for foundlings. Such institutions, it is well known, are falling into disrepute, and are being discontinued because of their—frequently—high death rate. But Sister Henriette also shows that their existence in a community greatly increases the numbers of abandoned infants. On the other hand, in countries where they have been quite abolished, infanticide is frequent, and moreover, a lucrative trade in abandoned infants is carried on.

The White Slave Trade, says Sister Henriette, is now the subject of international agitation, and the existence of a traffic in girls for immoral purposes is universally recognised, while the duty of society to extirpate it is equally acknowledged.

On the other hand, the traffic in children is ignored, either intentionally or otherwise, both by public authorities and by private child-saving societies.†

Thousands of wretched white children of all ages, of every nationality and every religion, pine in barbarous slavery unnoticed by officials or volunteer associations.

"I will not assert," says Sister Henriette, "that child slavery equals the traffic in girls in dimension, as, for want of full statistics, I could not prove such an assertion." But that the child slave trade is appallingly extensive she knows from personal experience, and divides this trade into four branches:—

1. The most familiar form, baby-farming (Engelmacherei).
 2. Selling children, or giving them away, and disposing of children with a single sum of money paid down with them at the time they are cast off.
 3. Exploiting children for immoral purposes.
 4. Selling or renting children to professional beggars, thieves, &c.
1. The victims of the baby farms are chiefly illegitimate, yet even legitimate infants are

* By Sister Henriette Arendt, formerly Police Assistant in Stuttgart. Deutsches Verlagshaus, Berlin.

† Sister Henriette's researches have been made upon the Continent, and her accusations are made against European countries.

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