

or thirty directly connected with the public health. Bacteria in Milk, How to Prevent Typhoid Fever, Tuberculosis, The Sanitary Privy, House Flies, The Care of Milk and its use in the Home, Some Common Disinfectants, Care of Food in the Home, Harmfulness of Headache Mixtures, Preparation of Vegetables for the Table, Principles of Nutrition and Nutritive Value of Food are treated, each one in a separate pamphlet, and nothing could be more carefully compiled, simpler, or more instructive than those which I have read.

Sweets, known as candies, are largely sold on small street-stalls in New York. For these a glass cover is provided, to keep off the dust and the microbes. To be sure, these covers may often be seen propped open, but that is not the fault of the public, but of the occasional individual.

Milk is delivered in sealed bottles, and spring water, which, alas! needs to be bought in New York, in large gallons with spring stoppers.

Even the street sweepers are dressed in *clean* white clothes, hats and all, the latter resembling the pith helmets of Eastern travel.

It may be asked: "What has all this to do with Nursing and Nurses?"

Much every way. In a community in which hygiene has once begun to be recognized as not only a necessity but a public right, the ministers of hygiene will be estimated at their proper value, and respected for the grave importance of the duties that they are called upon to perform. From this it must follow that, the demand on those ministers being for the highest and most responsible quality of work, not of healing merely, but primarily of education and of prevention, they themselves, the ministers, will respond to that demand of necessity. We shall expect to find in such a community a great stirring in the profession of nursing, an increasing breadth of view, a reviewing of the standard of training, a setting aside of old prejudices, a recognition of the newer methods required by the new responsibilities, the loss of pettiness, the onrush of magnificent ideals, guarded and controlled by stalwart common-sense and reflecting wisdom.

In all this the State of New York is leading, very finely, onwards towards the light. And, in what I have to say further, I should like my colleagues, both at home and in the States, to grasp from the outset that I do not pretend to imagine that perfection in nursing matters or in matters of hygiene generally either has been, or is about to be, reached, either in New York or in any other State in the Union. This paper may, I hope, fall into the hands of some of our superintendents, committee ladies, and nurses

in New York, Cleveland, Baltimore, Boston, and elsewhere. They are not blind to the defects of their systems; if they were, there would be an end of effort, instead of the ceaseless activity which characterizes them. Let me assure them that I am only turning a blind eye for the moment. My purpose is to emphasize those things in which we may learn from our friends away to the West, for that is, after all, one of the chief objects of leaving one's own country. I have no patience with the *nil admirari* doctrine which is the special characteristic of the travelling idiot abroad, and which has earned for too many English men and women the hearty distrust and dislike of Americans in particular.

Apropos of this, an Irish friend told me that he had the delight of seeing the amazing glory of the maple woods in New York State this autumn. "Oh," said the friends to whom he tried to express his sense of their wonderful, glowing beauty, "do you *really* like it? English people generally say, 'How gaudy'!"

The editor is quite unaware that I am hoping to inflict upon her and you three papers. In this, the first one, I was firmly minded to let no personal reminiscences intrude, but to deal with a very big subject from a fitting height. But, when you come to know Kerry better, all of you, you will understand that never was there a Kerry woman—no, nor man either, little as they, dear things, know it—that could deal with any question without parentheses as long as St. Paul's, in the course of which much personal history, to our remotest ancestors, may be gathered. And so, having strayed, I shall stray again.

That reminds me, by the way, of a yearling bull of mine, who has a pasture of his own, but who turns up smiling in the cabbage garden, or at the haystack, by ways of his own, no matter how often he may be put out, faithfully and regularly—and is scandalously fat in consequence.

I said I should stray again. No matter. Where was I? Just three thousand odd miles to the West, I think, in New York, a State where, I need hardly say, Registration of Nurses is in force.

Here, in the town of Albany, a magnificent State education building was dedicated—or, as we should say, "opened"—in the middle of October. It was built at a cost of £817,744. New York claims, and rightly claims, to have been a leader in education. It is, as the official editor of its Education Department writes: "The first to erect a separate building to stand exclusively and aggressively for its concern about the intelligence and the character of all

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