

Sir Victor said that he was in favour of the notification of venereal diseases to the medical officer of health. He thought that a system of notification would not improbably be resented both by doctors and by the public, but the history of notification showed that objections had been very strongly brought forward even in regard to the simplest diseases.

The notification of scarlet fever was violently resisted at first, but there is no difficulty about it at the present day.

Every argument that he had heard used against the notification of venereal diseases had also been used against the notification of so-called simpler diseases.

The notification should be confidential and he had no fear of its confidential character being invaded; for this reason he did not think that a distinction could be drawn between venereal and other diseases on the ground that a moral stigma might be alleged in the case of the one and not in the case of the other.

With regard to the diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases Sir Victor said that he was in favour of treatment in special wards of general hospitals, and he thought that every health authority should have its own bacteriological laboratory for the diagnosis of disease. He did not think that adequate facilities for diagnosis or treatment would be provided unless they were subsidised by the State.

OUR FOREIGN LETTER.

A NURSING SCHOOL AT MONTEVIDEO.

This school was formed in order to introduce the English system of nursing. Up to the present it has been exclusively in the hands of nuns. The students are native Uruguayas, mostly of Spanish and Italian extraction, here and there a pure native whose swarthy skin betrays her origin. Most of them are beautiful girls, outwardly attractive, but of indolent habits. Unaccustomed to habits of order it is difficult to impress upon them the necessity for regularity and punctuality in their duties; they are children of the land of "manava" (to-morrow), as this country has been called. They think and act as though to-morrow would do as well, if not better, than to-day.

The hospital now only contains thirty beds, but an enlargement is contemplated in the near future. Spanish is absolutely necessary to enable a nurse conscientiously to fulfil her duties. The pupils are twenty-four in number, the staff, a matron, and four sisters.

The garden is a Paradise. Winter and summer flowers are in bloom in great profusion. Fruit also is very plentiful, oranges and lemons, peaches and grapes in great abundance. The ground yields two, and even three crops of potatoes, and other vegetables are readily grown.

The manners and customs are so diverse from ours in England that they form a most interesting study. In some things they are far ahead of us,

in others centuries behind. The universities, as well as the schools, are free. There are well-regulated depôts where pure milk is supplied to poor mothers for their babies free of cost, and although not under the charge of trained nurses they are admirably managed. Babies are duly weighed and practical instructions given to mothers. There is a Tubercular League, which provides suitable homes for all stages of the disease; it also supplies eggs, milk, &c., for those who are nursed at home. The system of house visiting is not yet introduced, but possibly the advent of trained nurses may bring this about.

Marriage laws are extremely lax. This is traceable to the radical spirit of the dominant party who have dispensed with the marriage service. They believe in free love and act up to their belief. If husband and wife part they hand the children over to the government, who look after them. A neighbouring state having gone to war with them the country was decimated, so they are anxious to repopulate it.

The dominant religion is Popery, consequently the people are priest ridden; but both Socialists and Catholics are political bodies ever at variance with each other. The Liberals are in power at present, but an election draws near when possibly the Catholic party will take the reins, and if so it is possible we may get our "congé," the Catholics being much against nursing being taken out of the nuns' hands, and it is certainly patent to all to see what esteem these women are held in by the people; there seems to be a great restfulness about them.

The pure Uruguayas are almost extinct, and the skins of those you meet vary in colour from white to the densest black. It is neither safe nor pleasant for women to go out alone. It is commonly reported, but I cannot vouch for its accuracy, that when the prisons are overcrowded the prisoners are drafted into the army and police force. Judging from their appearance this is true, for you could not conceive a greater contrast between them and our smart Metropolitan force!

At present I am on night sister's duty, and all sorts of beautiful moths are flitting about me, some microscopically small, others almost as large as a bat; some are quite black, whilst the colours of others are beautifully varied. But how shall I describe the sights and sounds when the sun rises? The garden with its perfumes, its flowering shrubs, and birds flitting about in every coloured dress, one of the most charming being the Cardinal, and those blue grey ones which often adorn the headgear of fashionable folk. Lest you should think this is an absolute arcadia, I must add that all night the croaking of the frogs is intolerable. But the longest night comes to an end, so must my letter. We look out with great eagerness for the mails, letters from friends at home are worth their weight in gold. THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, too, is most welcome; it seems to keep us in touch with our English sisters and *au fait* with all that is going on in other spheres.

J. W.

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