

I nursed an English lady for eleven weeks under a well-known Belgian doctor. She was a very bad mental patient, and one had to exercise the utmost tact and often use guile to accomplish one's ends. She, too, had two-hourly feeds, and is chiefly remembered by me on account of my knitting lessons. The doctor said if only she could be roused to interest in *something* she would recover. So I got some wool and a pair of needles and began to knit, on the chance of tempting her interest. She sat in a chair watching me, and telling me all her troubles again. I struggled on, dropping stitches, and being very clumsy. After a while I quite annoyed her with my clumsiness, and she longed to take it out of my hands and put it straight, but I assured her I should get along soon, that one learned by mistakes, &c., and—dropped another stitch. In the end she bent forward, took up the work, and began to forget herself—the first time for weeks. In the end I brought her triumphantly home to England, where on landing she exclaimed, "Never again do I leave my native country!" D. V.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND MORALS.

An international abolitionist Conference will be held in the Assembly Rooms, Portsmouth, from June 15th to 18th, to discuss "A Constructive Policy" to emphasise the necessity for some concerted action against venereal disease. (a) The reduction of venereal disease, (b) The reduction of immorality. So long ago as the International Medical Congress at Geneva, in 1887, Abolitionists impressively urged the view that to combat venereal diseases a combination of sanitary, ethical, administrative, and repressive measures is necessary. The main topic of the Portsmouth Conference is Communal Responsibility in regard to these evils. For complete programme and information apply to the Secretary of the British Branch of the Abolitionist Federation, Miss F. M. McNeill, M.A., 19, Tothill Street, S.W.

A NOTE FROM ROME.

At the recent meeting of the International Council of Women at Rome our correspondent writes:—

"In the section on hygiene able speakers advocated the fight which should be instituted against alcoholism, prostitution, and the importance of training both boys and girls to a sense of their responsibility towards one another, and towards those who are to follow them. The importance of training every girl and woman to some knowledge of the laws of hygiene and sick nursing in all classes was also discussed.

"Madame Maraini read a report on the Scuola Convitto Regina Elena at the Policlinico Hospital, which was opened in 1910 for training Italian girls of better family as sick nurses, and thus opening a new profession. The school has already accomplished admirable work, and has been able to send six trained nurses to a Branch School in Florence, under the management of an English matron."

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN.

The Society of Women Journalists—the official address of which is 10, St. Bride's Avenue, E.C., has recently extended its membership and is becoming an increasingly influential body in literary circles, and all young women journalists who hope in time to take high rank in their fascinating profession, should avail themselves of association with the leaders in their work, many of whom form the Council of the Society, by applying for membership. A social gathering of a unique kind, and which promises to be very enjoyable is being arranged by the Council for July 11th next, thanks to Mr. Cecil Harmsworth, M.P., who has most kindly granted the Society the use of Dr. Johnson's delightful old Georgian House in Gough Square, E.C., for a Reception, and Lecture by Mr. Allan Walker (whose knowledge of London's history is unique).

All may not be aware that Mr. Cecil Harmsworth bought this historic house, and has with great taste, had it carefully restored in keeping with its age and Johnsonian associations—wherein are now to be found many mementos of the great Lexicographer. No doubt this up-to-date Society of Women Journalists, will attend the Reception fully sensible of the deference their sex should pay to the memory of the eighteenth century potentate—who did not deal over gently with the foibles and fancies of an "inferior" sex. Anyway, he shared their partiality for the "crumpled leaf from China," and would have sympathised, no doubt, with the determination of "women scribblers" to arrange a lovely tea.

The Bishop of London, when paying his annual visit to Queen's College, Harley Street, W., said it occasioned surprise when he made a speech on behalf of the Suffragettes in the House of Lords. He had just come from speaking the word of God to a prominent militant, and he greatly admired her courage and self-sacrifice. Militants fought for others, and had he had a million women to vote for him he should not have taken the time he did to get the White Slave Bill passed. Nor would the Criminal Law Amendment Bill have been "hung up," as it now seemed likely to be.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"Help the weak if you are strong,
Love the old if you are young,
Own your faults if you are wrong,
And when you are angry
Hold your tongue."

"We are all so ambitious to be stars, while our Saviour wants us to be street lamps. At night to the trudging tired wayfarer, the lamp is more useful than the star."—*Dr. Lovett.*

"Strength of character is shown, not by fitful efforts, but by patient bearing of burdens."—*Carlyle.*

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)