

the dispensary with diseases which are practically unknown in the purely native villages."

A little book of Readings for use in Hospitals and among the sick is announced for immediate publication by Mr. Elliot Stock. The volume, which is entitled "One-Minute Readings for Nurses and Patients," Words of Comfort for the Suffering, contains fifty brief selections of helpful thoughts and prayers, mostly chosen from Holy Scripture. The compiler is Miss Fanny K. Kindersley, and the Bishop of Worcester contributes a Foreword.

The Royal Academy, Burlington House, which opened on Monday last, is of special interest to nurses this year, who probably have never before, in various guises, formed subjects for so many of the pictures. Of supreme interest is the plaster bust of Nurse Cavell in the Lecture Room (No. 1899), by Sir George Frampton, R.A. The face is one of great nobility and strength, and the sculptor has well represented the gravity and earnestness characteristic of his subject. The hair piled high is turned back from the straight square brow, the little ears, set close to the head, and the firm chin, dominated by the sweetness of the lips, indicate a character of unusual beauty and resolution.

Edith Cavell is represented wearing a high apron, which meets the plain linen collar at the neck, and over it a double-breasted cloak, open in front and turned back. On her head is a Sister Dora cap, rather small for either use or beauty, for when the bust is viewed from the front, the cap is invisible, with the exception of the strings, tied under the chin in a rather large and very stiff, straight bow. We hope the representation of the cap may be modified in the marble representation, for which this is a model, as its stiffness mars the harmony of a very sympathetic and successful study. There are two portraits of Edith Cavell amongst the miniatures (Nos. 1299 and 1391), and amongst other pictures in which nurses are represented is "The Return to the Front: Victoria Railway Station, 1916," by A. Richard Jack, in which a nurse in a circular cloak, and a bonnet with veil, is introduced amongst the khaki-clad figures.

In "Under the Red Cross," Mrs. Anna Lea Merritt has depicted a wounded soldier, whose left arm is being supported by an Army Sister, with numerous medals on her little red cape, while another nurse, in soft grey dress and Army cap, is applying a bandage in a method open to criticism, and a third nurse is attending

to an injury of the right leg. The grouping and colouring of the picture are very effective, but one's professional instinct makes one keenly desirous to give the patient a blanket, and make him more comfortable, and less chilly than he must be with the extremely scanty covering with which he is represented.

These by no means exhaust the list of nursing subjects in an unusually interesting Academy. The picture of St. Joan of Arc and the Inspiring Voices, by Mr. Charles A. Sheehan, and another by Mr. Charles Buchel, should not be missed.

Nurses in this country have felt much sympathy with their colleagues in Ireland during the recent riots in Dublin, especially with the members of the Irish Nurses' Association, who, with the members of the Nurses' Hostel, have their offices in St. Stephen's Green. We have no doubt, however, that there is compensation in the fact that they are close at hand to render assistance to the wounded. All reports received in this country prove that the nurses in Dublin did their duty most courageously, and exposed themselves fearlessly under fire in order to help the wounded to places of safety. But we know without telling that Irish nurses, with their keen sensibility and sympathy with suffering, are admirably qualified to uphold the best traditions of our profession in any emergency.

We congratulate American nurses on their devoted loyalty to the memory of their great leader, Isabel Hampton Robb, and also to their high educational ideals in work. In a few years they have raised a fund of close on £5,000, the interest of which is expended in providing educational facilities for American nurses.

PROFESSIONAL OPINION.

The *South African Nursing Record* comments on the fact that controversy is rife in Great Britain over the proposal to establish a Nursing College with a voluntary system of registration. Naturally, says our contemporary, the State Registrationists are opposing it tooth and nail, in England, Scotland and Ireland, while many who are opposed to the principle of State Registration welcome it as a sorely needed organisation of the very disorganised profession. Of course, the quarrel is outside our province, though naturally of interest to us, but our own opinion is that a thing like this should not be half done. It must be all or nothing; either a system of registration similar to that applied to our sister profession, or else no registration at all. We out here know only too well the evils of playing with the question.

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