

come in and look at her; she's all in white.' Then I heard 'lion and a kangaroo,' and discovered that I with the circus, also lately arrived on a first visit, was dividing the attention of this metropolis. The next day being Sunday, and the circus having departed, at least thirty people called, ostensibly to offer their services, really to 'look at her.' The patient recovered, and the family decided that in the future they must have a 'reel nurse' when anyone was 'took dangerous.'

"The next call was to a case of spinal meningitis—a bright little boy of ten. His father was the prosperous owner of many acres of pineland and a lumber mill. I presume he could write and cipher. The mother could write a fairly good letter, but had no idea of house-keeping. Her expression of prosperity was the unlimited use of lard; so everything was fried, from blackberries to so-called beefsteak, both of which were set over the fire in a cold pan of cold lard! However, I was allowed to get and prepare for the patient whatever I wished. After some weeks, when he was very hungry, he asked for nourishment before it was due. When refused, he said, looking at the grandfather clock, 'O, Miss Blank, you go by the minute hand, but my stomach goes by the second hand.' I relaxed my rule, and served buttermilk. One day I asked for port wine for him. His father demurred a little, but said, 'Yes, if you think so; and as the whole French nation live on cake and wine, it may be good.' The child had been ill for months before I went there, and, as it was evident he would never be strong, I sent him, when I went home, a little typewriter, which he learned to use perfectly, and on which he wrote me long letters. I was invited several times to visit the family. Once, as I passed the house, the grateful mother came out and said, 'Won't you light and take some juice?' Her husband was grinding sugar cane, and the juice is considered delicious; most of it being often consumed by inconsiderate visitors, to the great loss of the children, who sadly miss the syrup which should have been made from it, but these people 'use hospitality' without stint. After the draught, which courtesy and not pleasure, in my case, demanded, she added in the most cordial manner, 'Bring yer knittin' and spend a week.'

"The little boy lived six years, and then one day his sad-faced father came and asked me to go and comfort his mother."

Miss Mary Burr, now resident in Switzerland, has had an admirable article in the *American Journal of Nursing* on "The Effect of War on the Training and Education of Nurses."

## STATE LEGISLATION AND THE COLLEGE OF NURSING.

Now that the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd. (a non-professional Company), have considered the last draft of amendments to its Bill for the Registration of Nurses suggested by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Trained Nurses; and have not agreed to the two most important—(1) the Constitution of the General Nursing Council and (2) provision for hospital training; we, in response to many requests from matrons and nurses, propose to report briefly the result of negotiations between the Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses and the College of Nursing, which took place in the hope of agreeing upon a conjoint Bill.

It will be remembered that the Bill drafted by the Central Committee was accorded a remarkable reception in the House of Commons when introduced, under the ten minutes rule, by Dr. Chapple in 1914, when it was accorded a first reading by a majority of 229, composed of members of all Parties in the House. The result of this test was very strong proof that the work of the constituent Societies which form the Central Committee had during the past decade thoroughly educated the constituencies, and convinced a very large majority of members of Parliament that the principle of State Registration of Nurses is thoroughly sound and worthy of support.

The Bill which, when introduced into the House of Commons in 1914, received such widespread support was very similar to that promoted by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, which passed through all its stages without a division in the House of Lords in 1908; and was the result of a consensus of professional opinion in England, Scotland, and Ireland. Thus there was no reason to fear a second reading in the House of Commons; indeed, so sure was it of passing into law, if it had not been purposely excluded from consideration, that it was realised by those who opposed it that interested opposition had had its day, and that its opposers must bring forward a substitute scheme, or the just and progressive measure, the Nurses' Registration Bill, would become law.

Then, once more, we were offered a voluntary scheme of registration—a quarter of a century behind time—the Guy's scheme of 1905 under a new name, which had been opposed and defeated before the Board of Trade.

The evolution of the College of Nursing—which has been faithfully reported in THE

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