

including an Elizabethan cover of floral design and an Italian altar frontal of the sixteenth century embroidered in silk on satin. There were old temple hangings from China and many examples of Chinese beadwork. The collection of Irish glass was also very fine. The many delightful and exquisite pieces of modern needlework made us regret that these busy modern days leave so little time for cultivating the gentle art of the needle, but many nurses have still the opportunity to excel in this, and it would prove of inestimable value to them if they would cultivate some such hobby, to give opportunity for mental refreshment and recreation, instead of having their minds perpetually occupied with illness and thoughts of illness, or the sordid cares of everyday life.

We would advise all nurses to seek the opportunity to visit the wonderful exhibition which is open daily. Some days ago we spent a delightful hour there, and, owing partly to the perfect courtesy meted out to visitors and to the beautiful things one saw everywhere, one felt oneself to be in an atmosphere very different from the racket and rush of ordinary modern life. With the greatest kindness each department with its many treasures was shown to us.

In the ecclesiastical needlework department, for instance, there was a perfectly magnificent altar frontal worked in a design in raised gold on most beautiful crimson. So beautiful, indeed, is it, that when it was finished, a special request was made that it should be exhibited at the Victoria and Albert Exhibition, where it stood for some time. More beautiful figures in needlework we have never seen than those being prepared for a cope, also in this department. The colours of those were truly exquisite and the work perfect. In the same section we saw the design of the fine piece of work, to be placed in St. Paul's Cathedral, which was wrought by soldiers in memory of their fallen comrades. In the centre was the Holy Grail, and round it various designs in Italian work. It was done in very small pieces, which were joined into a perfect whole at the Royal School of Art Needlework.

The designing department is one of the most interesting in the School. One realised in a moment that the lady who is responsible for it is an artist in every sense of the word. She possesses in a wonderful way what may be termed the "feeling" of form and colour. Every figure, every leaf and curve and line possessed character of its own, and one wondered whether this quiet little section of the building was not in reality the "heart" of the famous school—whether or not in this room was to be found the secret of its success. Anyhow, looking round the walls one really envied the little lady in charge who has such wonderful power for portraying her imaginings and for supplying the inspiration for so many of the lovely pieces of work in the exhibition below.

In another room the pupils were busy at work, and, by the way, if any of our readers are interested in studying any branch of needlework they

could not do better than take a course of training. The charges for teaching are wonderfully moderate, and information can be obtained by writing to the secretary of the Royal School of Art Needlework, Exhibition Road, South Kensington, S.W.

Originally the School was founded to give opportunity for ladies of limited means to do needlework for sale and so augment their incomes. It was opened in a room in Sloane Street, but it now occupies a very large building where one almost loses one's way in trying to explore the various sections. Perhaps the greatest benefit arising from the School has really been that of preserving the art of beautiful needlework, and only in later years perhaps will it be realised of what immense value the School has been in this respect, although this aspect strikes one more perhaps than any other even now when one looks at the exquisite specimens and revivals of old-time designs and stitches.

### AN ENERGETIC AUSTRALIAN MEMBER.

We hear that Miss Mollie Coleman has now sailed for Australia and she takes with her the good wishes of many friends whom she has made in the home country.

Miss Coleman came from Australia before the commencement of war and there is scarcely one of the allied countries in which she did not serve at some time throughout the long drawn out struggle. After working in France and Belgium she went to Serbia where she and others were taken prisoners. She has many very interesting experiences to relate of this period of service and of her return journey through Russia and Norway. During the war she found it necessary to return to Australia and went out on a hospital ship, but six weeks in Australia sufficed and as soon as possible Miss Coleman was again in military nursing uniform en route for France.

During the short holidays she has been able to secure she has visited the most famous towns in Great Britain and Ireland, and has seen much both of the latter country, the English Lakes, Wales, and the Scottish Highlands. Just before the war commenced, she took a course of fever training and also, since her first arrival in England, she has passed two of the Royal Sanitary Institute's examinations.

Miss Coleman takes a great interest in the organization of her profession, and it gave her fellow members of the R.B.N.A. very sincere pleasure to have with them in the Lobby, before the Second Reading of the Registration Bill, this very energetic member of the Australian branch, who is so well known and so popular in the Association.

Miss Coleman's three brothers have also fought for the Empire. She is in the habit of saying that every Australian should visit the homeland some time in his or her life.

(Signed) ISABEL MACDONALD,  
Secretary to the Corporation

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