

her life. He writes that on presenting his credentials at the Tir National "A Belgian man at once took me along the passages and opened a door which led into a deep verandah-like covered place under which men could fire at distant targets without going into the open. A wall waist high kept us from going further, but a wooden gangway led up to the top of the wall and down at the other side.

"A stake showed the spot where she sat blindfolded. To the right, some distance away, was a small cemetery where her body rested till the end of the war. I stood where the soldiers stood, and then stood in the snow where that wonderful woman had faced death so fearlessly at five paces."

The *Record* correspondent was allowed to copy from a German paper, in which the German chaplain, who attended Edith Cavell at her execution, had written a long article on the circumstances. Most of them are already familiar, but there are many interesting and intimate details which are made public for the first time. He says: "In the early grey of the morning I set out in the armoured car and drove to the prison. I was announced to Miss Cavell. If I remember rightly the soldier told me she had just knelt down by the table. A flickering gaslight burned in the cell, and there were two large bunches of withered flowers that had stood there for ten weeks. Miss Cavell had packed a few belongings with great care in her hand bag. I conducted her through the long passages of the great prison. The Belgian prison authorities stood there, and greeted her silently with the greatest respect. Then we mounted the armoured car which was waiting for us in the courtyard. I led her to the stake, to which she was loosely tied. A bandage was tied round her eyes, which the soldier told me were full of tears. A few minutes later the coffins were taken to the grave and lowered. I prayed over Edith Cavell's grave and said the Lord's blessing. But when I got home I felt sick at heart. I can testify the whole sad business went off without any accident."

Nurses in Melbourne wish to register the trained nurse's cap (handkerchief style or tails), as it is being worn so much by V.A.D.s and other partly trained nurses, but as the Bill for Nurses Registration printed in *Una* is of a crudity inconceivable, we fear there is little likelihood of the idea being sympathetically adopted by Victorian legislators. They appear to love a quack with even greater ardour than the B.P. at home—if that is possible!

NURSING PROGRESS.

AT THE LONDON HOSPITAL.

We most cordially congratulate the Governors of the London Hospital on the resolve to increase the term of training at the London Hospital to three years, and thus to give the probationers of that hospital the advantage of a year's additional work in the wards, instead of utilising their services as private nurses in their third and fourth years at the discretion of the hospital.

This decision was announced by the Chairman, Viscount Knutsford, in connection with the statement that the Matron (Miss Monk) was working out a scheme to reduce the hours of the nurses' work. It was, he said, impossible to reduce them to a forty-eight hours week. That would mean an additional 300 nurses on the staff. Where could they be housed, and how could they be paid? The public also must realise that if forty-eight hours was the working week of nurses in hospitals it would be so of all nurses. Very few patients could afford to engage three nurses instead of two.

"I MAKE THIS CHANGE WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE."

"But now," said Lord Knutsford, "if during these two strenuous years of training we are to shorten the hours we must lengthen the time of training. So we propose to make it three years instead of two. I confess I make this change with great reluctance. It has not been forced upon us by any pressure from outside, and if we were not shortening the hours we should not dream of altering a system which has succeeded so wonderfully."

Whether or not this change has been forced from the outside, the one thing we regret is that it has not been forced from the inside, and that nurses at the London Hospital have not taken collective action to bring about this reform. For, what the two years term of training, and two years of obligatory further service has meant, is that nurses sent out from the London Hospital in their third year were competing unfairly with the three years' trained and certificated nurses from other hospitals. You cannot yourself submit to unfair conditions without injuring your colleagues, and the fact that London Hospital nurses consented to be utilised in their third year in this way inflicted an injury on the private nursing world.

Happily this wrong will now be a thing of

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