will be a positive relief to many of the middle and upper-middle classes to hear there is a chance for their daughters to make a living, and at the same time to be able to put money by for their old age, a thing impossible for the majority of women workers in England to-day. Life for an English girl who works out in China is the height of luxury compared with that of her sister in overcrowded London. There one can enjoy life, for work is done under easier conditions and for far more profit. Those who think of it seriously must be fairly young and strong women, for the climate of Shanghai, for instance, is somewhat trying. They must also be adaptable, for work in the Orient is done by completely different methods from those to which we are accustomed in England.

There are most congenial positions for hospital nurses. If they enter, let us say, the service of the Shanghai Municipal Council they will receive Tls. 90 per mensem, which, roughly worked out, is about £200 a year, with far better food and lodging than is usual in any large provincial or London hospitals, where they earn from \pounds 40 to £60 a year. Out of this Chinese salary money can be saved. There is also a superannuation scheme, which, after fifteen years of service, gives a pension that would be a comfort in old age. There is more freedom, fewer irksome rules and regulations, and ex-patients often prove valuable and generous friends. Thus there is a chance to make friends and to keep them. Four weeks' holiday annually; and, after five years' service, there is the well-deserved seven to eight months furlough, passage being paid both ways and full pay all the time. There is no menial work in the professional duties of a hospital nurse in China. The salary of a private nurse comes to about the same sum, for there would be a series of cases, then a turn of idleness, as at home: but sick nursing in China is carried on under the most favourable conditions."

No woman or girl should go to China on her own, unless she has experience and sufficient money to tide her over for some months after arrival. She must have first-class references and introductions; her qualifications must be assured; she must also always remember she is a representative of the British Empire, and must uphold its honour and its dignity as well as her own. Prudence and discretion are two very valuable assets for any woman in a foreign land, and cannot be lightly disregarded in China."

Our advice to young women is to become thoroughly qualified in whatever profession they adopt. If a Trained Nurse, Register with one of the General Nursing Councils, obtain its Certificate, and then get inside information from the place to which you desire to go. Youth is the time for the great adventure:

travel, see the world, come in touch with its peoples, rub off insularities, and do not look forward to toes on fender till 65!! Quite soon enough. Then you will have a well-stored memory of past pleasures, and a cultured imagination of future fields of asphodel. Don't stagnate.

Miss Helen Nightingale, writing touchingly of a little domestic help, "Little Anne," in the same journal, quite naturally touches the status which trained nursing holds in the public estimation. "Little Anne' made one or two spasmodic attempts to learn shorthand and typing. But she was not clever, and she had practically no chance of obtaining clerical work at a living wage. . . Only two alternatives seemed to offer themselves to her. She could go into an infirmary as a probationer, or she could take up domestic work. . . . She decided on the latter."

Shades of the Syllabus of the G.N.C.! How we should enjoy examining the average woman journalist upon it, and, we feel convinced, having to present her with a wooden spoon!

Former Army nurses and matrons assembled last month at Anzac House, Melbourne, in response to an invitation from the officials of the Returned Soldiers' League, to inspect the new rooms at Anzac House and to confer with officials with a view to taking over quarters for the management of a returned Army nurses' club rooms. The State President (Mr. Turnbull) presided. It was decided to form special committee from amongst the Sisters present to organise the club and to get into communication with all the former nurses in the State. The subscription for the first year was fixed at £1 1s., and 10s. 6d. for subsequent years. Matron Edith Cornwell was elected president, with the following ladies as the executive committee: -Sisters Wilson, K. Hart, Lehman, Douglas, Turnbull, Burke, Dwyer, Zwar, Mason, Powell, and Wionarski.

A curious accident is reported from U.S.A. Miss Helen Vickery, aged twenty-one, senior nurse in the Good Shepherd Hospital, Schenectady, whilst combing her hair moved her head back quickly.

This action dislocated a vertebra just below the neck, chipping a piece from the side of one of the neighbouring vertebræ. Her head and neck are now in plaster of Paris, and her condition is critical. previous page next page