

by woods and only two and a-half hours' run from New York. My employer and his family had a summer house there. I drove the husband to the railway station at 7 a.m., when he went by train to his New York business. I fetched him at 6 p.m. in the car. During the day I took charge of two very trying children and helped considerably with housework. However, I had the use of the car, and took many glorious drives with my troublesome charges as passengers. Last year I spent high up in the mountains of Pennsylvania, as nurse in charge of a large recreation camp for girls. I had 56 children between six and eighteen, and was responsible for their health and general condition. It was a highly interesting experience, though I had much responsibility. So you see that it is possible to get work and experience out of the trying heat of the city in the summer.

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

"The Record Ballot! Closing Next Month! Genuine Sporting Ballot. £10,000 must be won. Biggest Sporting Event since Calcutta Sweepstake. Fascinating—Simple—Exciting!" And so forth.

The voluntary hospitals are just now very much on their trial. Shall they or shall they not be taken over by the State? The strong plea for the voluntary system is that it is a peculiarly British institution, and that British men and women will never allow the coffers of the voluntary hospitals to be unfilled. But if they find it necessary to descend to the above method of raising money, widely advertised in the press as "in aid of St. Thomas's Hospital, British Red Cross Society, &c." (we wonder, by the way, what precisely that "&c." covers), then the sooner the State takes the helm the better. One can imagine the caustic criticism which would have been poured upon such an advertisement had it been issued during the life-time of Florence Nightingale on behalf of the hospital with which her honoured name is indissolubly associated.

The trustees of the late Mr. David Ainslie, of Costerton, East Lothian, have, in connection with the terms of his will, acquired Canaan House and other property for the establishment and endowment of the Astley-Ainslie Institution for the benefit of convalescent patients in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. Canaan House, which will be a section devoted to women patients, will provide accommodation for 50 convalescents, but when the other residences are completed there will be accommodation for 300 to 400.

The Managers of the Royal Infirmary have acquired a house in Canaan Lane, which they propose to convert into a hostel for 45 nurses and staff, as the present accommodation for the nurses is quite insufficient.

We regret to be unable to award a prize in connection with our Prize Competition this week, no paper of sufficient merit having been received.

THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION MEETING.

NURSES' REGISTRATION.

The Official Report of the proceedings of the Annual Representative Meeting of the British Medical Association contains the following paragraph, under heading "Medico-Political Matters":—

Dr. J. McGregor Robertson (Glasgow North-Western) said there was no reference in the Report to the Nurses' Registration Act. He was anxious that the Council should consider carefully a recent rule passed by the Nursing Council for England and Wales, which empowered the secretary of an approved nurses' organisation to certify to the qualifications of nurses applying for registration, a duty formerly discharged by an appropriate committee of the Nursing Council. This rule was, in his opinion, a serious menace to the purity of the elections, as it would allow of any number of nurses being certified *en bloc*. He desired to propose a motion in the sense indicated.

The motion, as an instruction to the Council, was agreed to.

THE PASSING BELL.

COMMANDING INTELLECT.

The Empire will endorse the action of the Dean of Westminster in at once expressing his desire that the funeral service for the late Viscount Northcliffe should be held in Westminster Abbey, for so does the nation delight to honour the greatest of its sons and daughters, and it is fitting that such honour should be shown to the great journalist, patriot, and genius, whose passing has left the nation the poorer.

Genius is a rare and precious gift, to be treasured when found, and Mr. E. T. Raymond writes in a contemporary: "Of all the men I have ever met, apart from the artist kind, Viscount Northcliffe best satisfies my conception of that strange, incalculable, dangerous, and sometimes evanescent thing we call genius.

"His career may be explained by two words—energy and vision. His energy was a matter of physical and nervous make up. But all his energy, wonderful as it was, might have achieved but a mediocre result had he not been gifted with an uncanny power of knowing, not only what the average man is saying or doing to-day, but what he will say or do the day after to-morrow."

His Majesty the King, the Queen, Queen Alexandra, and other members of the Royal Family have sent messages of sympathy to Lady Northcliffe.

One of the devoted band of Crimean nurses organised by Miss Florence Nightingale for service in the Crimea has passed away at Warminster, in the person of Miss Elizabeth Bidwell, aged ninety-one. Miss Bidwell volunteered for service when she was a young woman, and served for some time under the famous Dr. Meyer, at Smyrna.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)