

common weal? And why should not the care of pauper sick poor be placed *universally* in the hands of skilful and educated women, competent, not only to tend the sick themselves, but able to guide and instruct other women to become the ministering angels of the poor?

We have women guardians; their female relations, like those of other ratepayers, swell the Nursing ranks. Is this question of Nurse-teaching then altogether unworthy of their notice? I cannot believe this, and hope to see the matter taken up by them and brought to practical shape. Should this ever come to pass I confidently predict, that amongst the ranks of our Poor Law Nurses and Probationers will be found women as skilful in the Nursing Art, as zealous for the honour of the Nursing Profession (as it will be then) as in their sister workers at our time-honoured Hospitals.—I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

MARIAN HUMFREY.

ELIZABETH FRY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I observe that in your interesting notice of the work of Mrs. Fry as pioneer of the "splendid Nursing systems and institutions now in vogue," you speak of the Nursing Sisterhood which she established in the City of London as a thing of the past. It is, however, still a most flourishing Institution, sending out Nurses all over the country, and providing a most comfortable and well-ordered Home for between eighty and ninety Nurses, who now receive pensions (when disabled) after fifteen, instead of thirty, years' service. They are still trained at the London Hospital, though, of course, the period of training has been gradually extended, to meet the requirements of modern Nursing. I think if you would kindly insert this, that some may be glad to know that Mrs. Fry's good work is being efficiently carried on, and also that some who are anxious to be trained for Private Nursing may be glad to know of an institution where they can be trained free of cost to themselves, and at the same time, enjoy the advantages of a thoroughly comfortable and well-conducted Home.—Believe me, yours faithfully,

HON. SECRETARY.

Nursing Sisters' Institution, Devonshire Square.

[We have very great pleasure in giving insertion to our respected correspondent's letter. On referring to the article in question we cannot trace any statement that the Nursing Sisterhood founded by Mrs. Fry is a thing of the past, indeed we knew at the time perfectly well that it was flourishing, though we should like to see its work increased fourfold.—ED.]

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Country Matron.—We should advise the use of teak, as it is most durable. Godfrey Giles and Co., 19, Old Cavendish Street, W., have introduced a new patent removable parquet, which they say can be laid, and taken up again, as easily as a carpet.

Derbyshire.—The basket you mention is most useful, as it is so light to carry from bed to bed, and can be scrubbed. Write to the Berkshire Wicker Furniture Manufactory, at Reading.

TEMPERATURE CHARTS.

PRICES (Post or Carriage Paid)—1,000, 25s.; 500, 13s. 6d.; 100, 3s. 6d.; 50, 2s.; 25, 1s. 3d.

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7, Serle Street, Lincoln's Inn, W.C.

THE VICAR'S DAUGHTER.*

An Autobiographical Story.

By GEORGE MACDONALD, LL.D.,

Author of "David Elginbrod," "Alec Forbes," "Within and Without," "Malcolm," &c.

CHAPTER XX.—HER STORY (CONTINUED).

"I HAD not gone farther, I fancy, than a few yards, when I ran up against some one, who laid hold of me, and asked me gruffly what I meant by it. I knew the voice: it was that of an old Irishwoman who did all the little charing we wanted—for I kept the rooms tidy, and the landlady cooked for us. As soon as she saw who it was, her tone changed, and then first I broke out in sobs, and told her I was running away because they were going to send me to the workhouse. She burst into a torrent of Irish indignation, and assured me that such should never be my fate while she lived. I must go back to the house with her, she said, and get my thing; and then I should go home with her until something better should turn up. I told her I would go with her anywhere, except into that house again; and she did not insist, but afterwards went by herself and got my little wardrobe. In the meantime she led me away to a large house in a square, of which she took the key from her pocket to open the door. It looked to me such a huge place!—the largest house I had ever been in; but it was rather desolate, for, except in one little room below, where she had scarcely more than a bed and a chair, a slip of carpet and a frying-pan, there was not an article of furniture in the whole place. She had been put there, when the last tenant left, to take care of the place, until another tenant should appear to turn her out. She had her house-room and a trifle a week besides for her services, beyond which she depended entirely on what she could make by charing. When she had no house to live in on the same terms, she took a room somewhere.

"Here I lived for several months, and was able to be of use; for—as Mrs. Conan was bound to be there at certain times to show anyone over the house who brought an order from the agent, and this necessarily took up a good part of her working time; and as, moreover, I could open the door and walk about the place as well as another—she willingly left me in charge as often as she had a job elsewhere.

"On such occasions, however, I found it very dreary indeed, for few people called, and she would not unfrequently be absent the whole day.

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