

Our Aunt by their request told her own early history and first visiting of Prisons most *beautifully*. They all seemed so captivated by her that they entreated for her to go on only a little more till Papa almost dragged her out of the room as it was then past the time that our company was to meet at the Hotel. Here we found a large party waiting for us. More than 80. We were all tired with our day and no wonder, but these soirées always look appalling in prospect but they invariably go off well. Our wonderful Aunt is so helped on from hour to hour that nothing seems to fail her. We begin with tea being handed round by Rodolph, during which time conversation begins which ends in all becoming interested and the topic always is prisons and slavery and capital punishment or schools, ending with a few verses from the Bible, etc., and distributing a few books. When they are all dispersed Rodolph brings us our quiet, little supper which we are always ready for."

In Berlin "our three dear Elders appeared at Court one morning by special invitation from the Queen" and of another occasion we read:—"Now I will tell thee about yesterday. The Princess Wilhelme sent one of her gentlemen to say that His Majesty had granted her permission to accompany Mrs. Fry to a Prison and she proposed 12 o'clock to us and that we were to call for her at that hour. We three ladies, accompanied by an English lady, Miss Murray, went according to appointment in the coach, our gentlemen walking, and on our arrival she sent down for us. . . . We soon went downstairs. The Princess leaning on Papa's arm. Aunt and the little Princess followed and behind came myself and the Dame d'Honneur. The Royal carriage was waiting at the bottom of the long dark flight of steps that leads into the open Court, and if you could have seen Her Royal Highness first handed in and then her daughter and lastly our honoured Aunt! Oh it was a sight! four Blue and Gold footmen. An immense gold crown and a W of Prince William worked in on the Scarlet Hammercloth and plated harness. Our Aunt looked like a Princess herself in a beautiful *full* silk cloak that Papa had given her and Trix and I have managed to have made for her here, and then a pair of light gloves and new cap. She looks fit for any Court in Europe. They pranced off in fine style and we followed as their humble servants in our own carriage."

So the story is unfolded. Elizabeth Fry by the force of her personality dominating all those with whom she came in contact, whether Royalty, shrewd men of business, society ladies, the persecuted Lutherans or the prisoners to whom her heart went out in such warm sympathy.

Her health during her journeys seems to have caused some anxiety, for we read "we cannot take very long stages for our Aunt must rest in the middle of the day. We feed her up with Porter and Ale where we can get it." On another occasion our diarist writes "We are all quite well except Aunt," and opines "I do not think she is much amiss, but she is so unwise about eating and drinking." Even the saintly Elizabeth Fry had her foibles apparently.

M. B.

It is reported that at an inquest held on a patient who was found on the floor of a bath room at the Royal Northern Hospital with a dressing gown cord round his neck, the house physician stated that she found him dead about 5.30 in the morning. The cause of death was strangulation and he had been dead some time. She did not remove the cord, as she was of opinion that under the circumstances it was best to leave everything as it was. Two nurses stated that they saw the patient alive at five o'clock, but the doctor thought they had made a mistake in their times. The resident medical officer said he thought the cause of death was a broken neck, not asphyxia, and the Coroner adjourned the inquest for a post-mortem to be made.

## THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

The opening of the ninety-seventh winter session of the Medical School of the Middlesex Hospital of which His Royal Highness Prince Arthur of Connaught, K.G., is Chairman, took place in the Queen's Hall, Langham Place, on October 1st, when the Introductory Address was delivered by Professor James McIntosh, M.D., Professor of Pathology in the University of London, and Director of the Bland-Sutton Institute of Pathology, after which the prizes gained during the previous year were distributed by Sir John Bland-Sutton, Bart, LL.D., Consulting Surgeon to the Hospital.

Professor McIntosh, in tracing the history of bacteriology, said that, with perhaps the single exception of influenza, epidemic diseases had been brought under control. Bacteria produced their effects by means of the rapidity with which they multiplied. Each bacterium could divide and form two in about 20 minutes, so that it became a grandfather in less than an hour. It had been calculated that if sufficient food were available the total weight of bacteria produced in a day might reach several thousand tons. Fortunately, the very energy of their rate of growth in a short time inhibited them by exhaustion of the food supply. A bacterium dividing once in every 20 minutes must use up its own weight in food in that time. Truly, a prodigious feat!

At the conclusion of the ceremony in the Queen's Hall many of those present proceeded by invitation to the Hospital where the new Nurses' Home, the new West Wing, the Medical School and the Research Departments were open for inspection. The guests were received by the Matron, Miss Dorothy M. Smith, in the beautiful new Nurses' Home, recently described in these columns, the architect of which was Mr. Young, of the firm of Messrs. Young & Hall, and which was justly described by the Chairman of the Hospital at the opening ceremony as a Residential College for Nurses, complete in its facilities for instruction as it is lavish in provision for recreation.

We greatly admired the fine proportions and the natural oak panelling of the dining rooms in which tea was served, and were fortunate in being conducted round the Home by the Assistant Matron, Miss Edith M. F. Bowdler, S.R.N., who was so ready to answer many questions on the arrangements. We were specially interested in the Preliminary Training School, excellently equipped for teaching purposes, and to learn that the course for the preliminary pupils is to be lengthened from six weeks to three months—a decision which must influence beneficially the work of the pupils when they enter the wards for practical instruction, and add to the comfort of the patients nursed by them. In the kitchens we saw the arrangements for cooking for the staff of 300 persons—Sisters and Nurses, Preliminary Massage, and Midwifery Pupils and the Domestic Staff, and also the ice-cream room, ice-cream being a delicacy enjoyed by the nurses twice a week.

The pretty and convenient bedrooms of the Nurses must be a keen delight to them. The furnishings match the colour scheme of the floor, which is different on each.

The fine swimming bath is worth going some distance to see. Middlesex Hospital Nurses are privileged indeed, and we learn that they are very keen on swimming as a recreation. Up to 10 o'clock each evening they are allowed to use it, and from 10 to 11.45 p.m. the Sisters are in possession.

Lastly must be mentioned that a much appreciated arrangement has recently been made on which the Secretary-Superintendent, Mr. S. R. C. Plimsol, and all concerned are much to be congratulated whereby the patients' friends can visit them each Tuesday evening instead of in the afternoon. It has of course meant some readjustments, but we are told that the experiment promises to be a great success.

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