

We pass on to the story of the beginnings of Elizabeth Fry's work in Newgate, of which we have an interesting description. Outside beautiful, a nineteenth-century gentleman wrote in a letter to the Press that "of all the seats of woe on this side of hell, few, I suppose, exceed or equal Newgate."

If Elizabeth Fry's first impression of Newgate as seen from without was one of orderly beauty, and her second impression on entering was one of gloom and bad smells, her third and most overwhelming was pandemonium. "The women, seeing visitors, pressed to the bars stretching out greedy hands, whining, begging for pence to spend in drink at the tap of the prison. Those in front were fought with by those behind; hands snatched them back by the hair, pinched them, punched them in the ribs with fists and elbows. They were a mass of women reduced to the level of wild beasts. The men prisoners in Newgate themselves were shocked at the depravity they observed in the women."

In the infirmary upstairs was the very bottom of misery's hell. Here, indeed, dwelt Misery her very self. Eagerly Elizabeth set to work, and for the great work that she succeeded in accomplishing the reader must be referred to the book itself. It is one of the brightest pages in the history of philanthropy, and should be read in its entirety.

WHAT TO READ.

BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIRS.

- "Florence Nightingale." Margaret Goldsmith
- "Rudyard Kipling, Craftsman." Sir George MacMunn.
- "Pauline Bonaparte" Joachim Kuhn.
- "After Many Days." Sir Frank Fletcher.
- "St. Helena," Aubry.
- "International Relations Since the Peace Treaties." E. H. Carr.
- "A Cardinal of the Medici." Mrs. Hicks Beach.
- "Life of John Keats." Charles Armitage Brown.

FICTION.

- "Highland River." Neil Gunn.
- "The Swift Shadow." L. A. G. Strong.
- "The Marsh." Ernest Raymond.
- "Brief Flower of Youth." Graham Heath.
- "Nothing is Safe." E. M. Delafield.
- "Very Heaven." Richard Aldington.
- "Hidden Ways." Van de Water.
- "The Road to Oxiana." Robert Byron.
- "Lodgers in Sweden." Romilly K. John.

HISTORY.

- "The Road to Madrid." Cecil Gerahty.

A GREAT HUMAN DOCUMENT.

- "Coalminer." G. A. W. Tomlinson.

COMING EVENTS.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

July 11th.—Reception of Welcome to the Grand Council I.C.N., 39, Portland Place, W. 4.30 p.m.

July 12th and 13th.—Meeting of the Board of Directors I.C.N., Board Room, College of Nursing, Cavendish Square, W. 9.30 a.m.

July 14th and 15th.—Meeting of the Grand Council I.C.N., Cowdray Hall, College of Nursing. 9.30 a.m.

July 16th.—Visit of Homage to the Grave of Miss Florence Nightingale, at East Wellow, by coach. Tea at Embley Park (a former home of Miss Nightingale) by invitation of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Crosfield.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Miss Ethel Riley, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., writes from the Sisters quarters at the new Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong: "We are really marvellously situated—looking out to sea—lands and sea as far as the eye can see. The Hospital will hold 500 beds. It is a delightful feeling to look forward to working in a modern hospital with all modern conveniences. . . . Yesterday, Coronation Day, was a great day, beginning with a review of the fighting Services at Happy Valley in the early morning. His Excellency, Mr. N. L. Smith, the Officer Administrating the Government watched 2,500 men march past. Beginning at 11 a.m. were Chinese processions, and in the evening a Reception at Government House to which 2,000 guests were invited. There was also a fireworks display by the Navy in the evening. All Hong Kong was gay. In the evening the General Post Office was stormed, so many people wishing to buy stamps and post letters on the 12th."

Member of League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses writes: "I am so pleased at the splendid response of the Nurses in Great Britain in aid of the expenses of the International Congress of Nurses, and particularly glad that the Matron of my own Training School is taking such a leading part in helping to make it a success."

S.R.N. writes: "I read your notice relating to the publication of the names of those who pass the State Examinations in Scotland and Ireland. Later, I listened to the conversation of a nurse from South Africa and several from Australia. Shortly, the burden of it was—'Why not? It is always done in our countries.' What a minimum of value is put upon knowledge South of the Tweed!"

Matron writes: "I am glad to note that the General Nursing Council for England and Wales proposes to impose an educative test for girls entering Approved Training Schools for Nurses. That is wholly good. Nurses have now to understand and perform such intricate procedures that such a test is very important. They have to deal with sick—often very sick—human beings, and any mistake made through failure to understand orders, or to carry out directions absolutely accurately, may result in the loss of a valuable life. We matrons feel greatly our responsibility in the selection of probationers, not only as to their immediate usefulness in the wards, though that is important, but as to their eventual competence in service of the sick, and most of us, I feel sure, will greatly appreciate any help from the General Nursing Council in this respect."

Miss B. D. writes: "I should like to thank you for giving readers of the Journal the opportunity of knowing something of the 'Wonderful Adventures of Mrs. Seacole,' and what she was able to accomplish by giving nursing care to so many people in various parts of the world, although the fact that she was a Creole must have increased her difficulties. Her work for the wounded in the Crimea, under fire, is worthy of the highest praise, and it is a pity that it can be so little known as the book is now out of print."

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Is the Official Organ of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain; the British College of Nurses; and the Matrons' Council of Great Britain. The Official Supplement of the Royal British Nurses' Association is incorporated in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. Price 7s. annually, including postage. Apply, MANAGER, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1.

QUESTION FOR NEXT MONTH.

Describe the nursing of an unconscious patient, and the dangers of unconsciousness.

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