

the proper clothes to take, but we shall know better next time). Miners and lumberjacks have to have special clothing for the woods, and we shall have to procure that kind. However, we lived through it all, and after our men had blasted out the rock with dynamite, they let us try our hands at pounding up the rock, and then washing it in the lake to see if we could find some gold. This is the most thrilling thing I have ever tried, and when once this adventurous spirit gets into one's blood, it is very hard to get out, and I feel now it is the future I would like, although I feel I would like to carry my nursing into the wilderness and do good that way, too.

The beauty of the Northern woods, hills, rocks, and lakes is beyond description, and I often wonder why we struggle in crowded towns, when so much beauty is going to waste. I do hope that, after this year, it will be possible for me to spend some time each year in these lovely surroundings.

We were about thirty miles from the last village, and had quite a number of big brown bears snooping round our camp at night, and could hear the wild cats (the Lynx) howling in the night, but a fire or a lamp frightens them, and these we used to protect our food supply. We had water from lovely mountain springs, and altogether I had a most thrilling holiday, and I feel sure it will make you wish you had been there too.

ALICE TORR.

FIXTURES.

September 17th.—Monthly meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses, 39, Portland Place, London, W. 2.30 p.m.

A VISIT TO EL ESCURIAL, SPAIN.

To say what one sees, and to say it so that it is seen in being heard; to see what is heard: that is the whole secret of Art.

A poem gives sight to the blind; a picture gives hearing to the deaf. So may a brief account of El Escorial, the Palace of Philip II of Spain, bring to the eyes of the reader a glimpse of its glories.

The usual journey to Paris—where the selfsame coaches that took us Congress folk to our different hotels await us, and take us to the hotel nearest the Quai d'Orsay—our starting place for Spain. After dinner a 12 hours' journey brings us to San Sebastian, a lovely seaside resort. As soon as the weather grows hot in Spain the Spanish express daily empties thousands of Spanish children to play on its lovely sands. Another night in the train; then notwithstanding physical fatigue—the blue and gold symphonies make us forget it—we are housed in the home of the Courtiers of the Court of Philip II of Spain. He himself—a great sufferer from gout—had the most modest bedroom and study, still shown in the condition in which he left it (16th century); a window let into the wall, so that he could hear Mass and see the Altar. The Monastery, in which we have the most up-to-date rooms, looks into a garden that no word-picture could show you—a lovely marble fountain (no water shortage), oleander trees and flowers of gorgeous hue and fertile mountains around us on all sides.

Some writers have called the Escorial the eighth wonder of the world: every room in it beautiful; it has more windows than any other in the world, nearly 2,000 of them. The Church is copied from St. Peter's at Rome; a steep flight of marble steps leads to the High Altar. High up are the kneeling figures of the family of Philip II; only his second wife, Mary of England, is missing—she is sculptured in Westminster Abbey. The High Altar is built over the interment place of the Spanish Kings, and a Mass for all deceased Spanish monarchs is still said every morning. A space is reserved for King Alfonso. The High Choir contains dark woods of Spanish mahogany

and seven other kinds, stalls, and great choral books, each leaf of which is made from the whole skin of a calf.

Of great beauty is a tiny chapel where hangs one of the best works of Benvenuto Cellini, the Italian sculptor. This is a life-sized marble Christ, given to Philip II by the Grand Duke of Tuscany. A stroll should be taken in the Monks' garden among the oleanders, with the sun gilding the huge façade, and the columns of the home of the convalescent monks.

A wonderful day in Madrid—first visiting the Prado Museum, one of the most important picture galleries in the world—a visit to which is indispensable for all those who are anxious to gain a knowledge of Spanish painting; magnificent parks and monuments in abundance. Its hospitals are magnificent in building, and very up-to-date in every way.

The National Palace—home of King Alfonso and Queen Ena—has only quite recently been open to the public. It is the largest and second best palace in Europe. In the bedroom of Queen Ena, where all her six children were born, the ceiling is azure blue, with waves of painted white lace that ripple to a point; every room is wonderful and beautiful.

Toledo, Granada, Segovia, Madrid—all so well worth a visit.

And what of Spain to-day? Instead of the poor being kept in ignorance, 30,000 schools have been opened: they have been taught to read for themselves—not only listen, to read—to possess books. Much of this Spanish children owe to the wandering scholar, Don Manuel Cossí, one of the group who have the deepest and most thorough education Spain has undergone, the educational revolution, one of his best ideas being to bring the University to the elementary school.

JESSIE HOLMES.

Miss Jessie Holmes sends us this interesting account of a pre-war visit to Spain. Alas, how much will remain of this loveliness when the insensate war which now convulses that unhappy country draws at length to a close? Horrible mutilation and untold suffering of thousands upon thousands of men, women, and children proceed unceasingly, progress ruined, and the destruction of priceless works of art, and noble buildings goes on apace, as the result of "man's inhumanity to man."

THE ANNUAL REUNION OF THE CROYDON GENERAL HOSPITAL.

The Annual Re-union of Nurses at the Croydon General Hospital will be held on Wednesday, October 19th, from 3 to 6 p.m. The St. Luke's Day Service will be held in the Chapel at 5 p.m., the Bishop of Croydon officiating. All past members of the staff are cordially invited. R.S.V.P. to Matron.

HOSPITALS FOR AIR RAID CASUALTIES.

Mr. Walter Elliot, the Minister of Health, who, as already announced, has taken over from the Home Secretary responsibility for dealing with the question of providing hospitals for those injured in air raids has recently issued a circular to County Councils and County Borough Councils explaining that the Ministry are working out comprehensive plans which could be put into operation in various parts of the country if the necessity should arise. Although the details would vary according to local circumstances, the general principle is that every hospital must be prepared to deal with air raid casualties occurring in its immediate neighbourhood, and in addition every hospital which is not in a specially dangerous position would be expected to receive both casualties and ordinary patients moved from the danger areas.

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