

THE whole article will, if possible, enhance the great admiration already felt for the literary powers, complete grasp of facts, shrewd perception, and keen, womanly sympathies of the universally popular Princess. Her Royal Highness is undoubtedly *the* royal nurse *par excellence*. Her translation of Professor Esmarch's book on "First Aid to the Wounded" is most gracefully and yet vigorously worded. She is the President of the Ladies' Committee of the Hospital for Women, and for years has taken the warmest interest in all hospital work, and is quite *au fait* with every detail of ward management.

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BY-THE-BYE, most of our Royal Family take the greatest interest in medical and nursing matters. The late Princess Alice, it is well known, was an accomplished nurse, and did incalculable good by promoting increased efficiency in the management of the hospitals of Hesse-Darmstadt. The present Empress of Germany, amongst the many other great improvements she has introduced and carried out in her adopted country, has considerably amended the nursing in the civil and military hospitals in Berlin by the active interest she has evinced in the details of their management. It is now said in the German papers that she has been the good genius of the Emperor through his illness. Every day she pays a visit to the kitchen, to see for herself that her husband's food is properly prepared, and day and night she attends to all the doctors' orders; in moments of danger, and when the operation of Tracheotomy was performed, it is reported that she was present and assisted like a skilled nurse, even helping to move the bed.

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LECTURES on nursing are quite fashionable at present. I hear of a number of different courses which are going to be given in private and public this season. I do not think amateurs will learn very much from them, but the mere fact of them being given and listened to shows once more how much public interest is taken in nursing matters. For example, I hear that Miss Homersham, N.H.S., who was a nurse at the London Hospital, has just given a series of lectures on "Sick Nursing" in Wimbledon. They seem to have been very well attended, and to have excited considerable interest in the neighbourhood. They were given, I hear, under the auspices of the National Health Society, which presents a certificate to all who pass a satisfactory examination in the subject of the lectures delivered on its behalf. Then it is announced that Mrs. Seymour Eccles will give a course of nursing lectures to ladies at Canon Ridgway's Church House, on Fridays in April, at three o'clock; the first one will be on April 13th. If any readers of this paper wish to attend any of these lectures, which are given for the St. John's Ambulance Association and are

sure to be good, they can obtain full particulars from Miss Quilter, 28, Norfolk Street, Park Lane, London.

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TALKING of St. John's Ambulance Association reminds me that the Duchess of Albany passed with flying colours the examination held lately at Esher, after a course of lectures had been given for the Association on ambulance work and minor nursing details. So nursing has secured another royal disciple.

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So the long looked for scheme of the National Pension Fund is out at last, and will receive, I doubt not, the most careful consideration from every nurse who is of a thrifty turn of mind. There was a very clear and concise article on the subject in the *Lancet* of last Saturday, and I am glad to hear that our Mr. Editor is taking up the matter vigorously in these columns; for nurses are, of course, not accustomed to finance, and as common-sense people they want to hear everybody's opinion before they trust their scanty savings to anyone. There is a good story, however, going round, that one nurse wrote to say that she "would not at all mind subscribing ten shillings a year to get £1 a week when she was fifty, but she couldn't afford more than ten shillings a year, and couldn't live on less than £1 a week." I fear she will be a sadder, if a wiser, woman to learn that if she wishes even to get £30 a year, and is now forty years old, she must pay under this scheme no less than £43 a year till she is fifty! I confess I am very sorry such a good idea has been carried out so impractically, for it needs no prophetic instinct now to see what the result will be. One thing is quite certain—whoever drew up this scheme could not have the smallest practical knowledge of a nurse's wants or a nurse's income. Those of our number who have independent means, or are provided with homes and friends, will not want or ask for a pension; those that are so homeless and friendless and poor that they must make provision for their old age, find £24 or £30 a year little enough in all conscience for their own daily wants. Sisters and matrons get larger salaries, but they have many calls on their purses which the nurse has not, and which quite counterbalance the apparent differences of income.

S. G.

### INFLUENCE OF CLOTHING ON HEALTH.

IN our notice in our last issue of this excellent little book, by Mr. F. Treves, F.R.C.S., we ought to have mentioned that it is published by Messrs. Cassell and Company, Limited, and that the price is two shillings.

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