

in a house always brought. Another feature of the scheme was that it opened up a branch of good and permanent employment to respectable women of the cottage class. Although the salary was not so high as that of the district Nurses in towns, the greater freedom of life in the country, the frequent changes from place to place, and the intervals of rest were compensating advantages which the Nurses were not slow to appreciate.—Before the proceedings closed several ladies promised to take steps for the establishment of associations in their respective districts.

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THE remarks recently made in the NURSING RECORD, on Tea Drinking amongst Nurses, have been quoted and requoted and improved upon in one or two hundred other journals, and this is how the tale has reached a Scottish contemporary—an excellent instance of how a story grows:—

"This is dreadful news that reaches me about the hospital nurses. In old days the monthly nurse, as typified by Mrs. Sairey Gamp and Mrs. Betsy Prig, were given to the absorption of gin to relieve the "spaggum" that seized them during the night watches. Their better cultivated successors sustain exhausted nature upon tea. They are always at it. A patient in a London hospital while bearing testimony to the good qualities and self devotion of the nurses, hints that they are positively intemperate in their tea-drinking. Two nurses never meet without an adjournment for the cheering cup. In season and out of season, morning, noon, and night, Sunday to Saturday, the sisters continue their tea-tipple. The state of nerves in which this must eventually result is something awful to contemplate. I hope the medical staffs of various hospitals will take the practice firmly in hand."

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THERE is a very significant passage in the report of the annual meeting of the Washington Training School for Nurses, which the *Evening Star* of that City just to hand describes at length, the following extracts being interesting as illustrating how differently these Schools are organized in America than in England. One of the professors announced that the present term of two years would be increased to a three years' course, which is now becoming so generally adopted in Great Britain:—

"This most worthy institution was incorporated by Congress in December, 1877. Its particular object and business is the education of skilled Nurses suitable for the needs of hospitals and capable of being entrusted with the care of the sick in their own homes. This commendable object is accomplished by a system of lectures and oral instruction and recitation in the rudiments of such branches of the sciences of medicine and hygiene as may be sufficient for the purpose, supplemented by a two years' course of practical instruction in hospitals. The office of Nurse is now looked upon as a skilled profession that opens a new and congenial field of labour for women, and moreover is one that is well rewarded. The Washington Training School for Nurses has now been in successful operation for sixteen years, and last night offer-

ed to the public its eleventh class of graduates as a fine result of its labours. The exercises, while entirely practical, were very interesting. The graduates wore their working garb, and in this respect differed essentially from the traditional sweet girl graduates who wear their best clothes and sweetest smile for such occasions. These particular graduates looked sweet enough, it is true, but it was not especially on account of their raiment. They were all simply attired in the regulation costume of their profession, consisting of blue gingham dresses, white muslin hemstitched aprons, linen cuffs and Swiss caps. They were also provided with the necessary paraphernalia of their business in a small satchell suspended from their waist, consisting of a pair of scissors, pencil and tablet and a pin ball. Most of them also carried thermometers for use in determining their patients' temperature. Past graduates and students acted as ushers and did efficient service in seating the audience. The past graduates were distinguished from the others by the fact that their caps were fastened by black bands, while the graduates and the undergraduates displayed white bands. Otherwise their dress was the same. The stage was handsomely decorated with plants and flowers and the floral offerings to the graduates were banked at the edge of the platform. The faculty of the school occupied seats on one side of the stage and the graduates the other, while the officers of the evening sat in the centre toward the rear."

S. G.

### Inventions, Preparations, &c.

Our opinion has recently been invited upon Nestlé's Milk Food for Infants and Invalids. We have tried it extensively and found it most nutritious and wholesome, increasing both the strength and weight of the children to whom it has been given, whilst for invalids or other persons who have a weak digestion it will also be found most valuable. Seeing that the ingredients composing this food are given quite openly, it is the more to be valued, and we take pleasure in recommending it for a trial by our readers. Nestlé's Milk is too well known to need much praise at our hands, but of all the brands now on the market—and their names are legion—Nestlé's commands one of the largest sales, and seeing that a guarantee is given on every tin sold that *nothing but water* is removed, and a little cane sugar added, it deserves to find high favour.

### DR. NANSEN'S EXPEDITION.

It was necessary that all the provisions taken for this Expedition should keep good for at least seven years, and be of the very highest quality of their kind. It is therefore a very high and well deserved compliment to the preparations of Messrs. Cadbury, of Bournville, that that well-known firm has been instructed to supply about 1,500 lbs. weight of their Cocoa Essence and Chocolate in hermetically sealed tins.

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