

perintendent with a pitiful request to go home. There were many chickens to be taken care of it seemed. When the patient had finished the doctor led her to the room where the food from the kitchen was served.

"Just see here all the work that we have got to do," he said. "You can't be spared. I don't believe. Of course you can go any time you want to but all these women can't get anything to eat and what will we do with them when they get hungry?"

This unlooked for contingency had not presented itself to the mind of the patient and she averred that she would stay awhile longer until some of them came to their senses and were able to do a little work.

And there has been a radical change in the manner of auditing and accounting at the asylum. At present the superintendent can tell just what supplies were purchased and how they were used. Not a single article can be taken from the storeroom unless the requisition is signed by the superintendent in charge of the institution. Careful tab is kept on expenditures and the balance on hand in each fund is always known at the office.

Clothing for the inmates is in a great many cases provided by friends and relatives. Then it is marked with the name of the owner and kept separate from the belongings of other patients. When the state furnishes clothing the articles of apparel are marked with the designation of the ward and apporportioned at the discretion of the attendants.

In the four wards for the male patients a dining room is maintained at the end of each ward. There are a number of the men who have daily outdoor tasks and these are provided with a bill of fare in which meats form a chief constituent.

As nearly as possible a light task of some kind is assigned each patient. This is diverting and causes the exercise of the faculties.

Dr. W. D. Shields is the first assistant superintendent at the asylum, Dr. Mabel Dunn is the second assistant, E. D. Gilmore of Nemaha is steward, J. A. Weart, formerly a member of the Lincoln police force, is supervisor and Mrs. Sadie Fisher is supervisory.

Cheerfully lighted on a winter evening the asylum presents an attractive and homelike appearance. It does not seem at all like a prison house for the unfortunate but a pleasant retreat provided for the unfortunate by the beneficence of society.

There are 599 inmates at the asylum including the fifty recently brought down from Norfolk. Seventy-seven employes are needed. The payroll amounts to about \$1,700 a month.

Since the destruction of the Norfolk asylum, Superintendent Greene has advocated abandoning it as an asylum and the establishment of a normal school for the North Platte country instead. He believes that the land belonging to the state and the remaining buildings can be utilized best in this way and the citizens of the community would in time receive more benefit.

"I always make money off that musician," observed the marketman. "I thought you made money off everybody," said the helpless customer. "Well, of course, I try to, but you see he insists that I give him only four beets to the measure."—Baltimore American.

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OBSERVATIONS

BY SARAH B. HARRIS

Vaccination

The tetanus cases from which seven children died at Camden, New Jersey, and twenty at St. Louis, Missouri, were contracted by the children from vaccination. These twenty-seven deaths have frightened people so that they are more than ever averse to vaccination. At first the cases of smallpox which developed in Lincoln were not serious. The eruptions were more like varioloid. But within the last fortnight the malignancy seems to be increasing.

Vaccination and strict quarantine are the only effectual methods of stamping out a smallpox epidemic. All the unvaccinated should be vaccinated for their own safety as well as for the health of the city.

It is necessary now and always has been to take chances. The best gambler—and we are all gamblers of greater or less proficiency—looks over the board and deliberately, without prejudice, takes the greatest number of chances allowed him by the rules of the game. When the game is one where his life is forfeit to his poor judgment or his encouragement of prejudice he is more careful than as though it were merely a money stake. Now twenty-seven individuals have died in this country from tetanus contracted from vaccination. Tens of thousands have died from smallpox who might have been alive today if they had been vaccinated. The chances are in favor of vaccination and against infection. Among the millions who have been vaccinated we have been told of twenty-seven who were infected with virus containing the tetanus microbe. To the mothers and fathers whose children died in consequence of vaccination, the word has the sound of murder. The prejudice against vaccination has deepened since these deplorable accidents so that smallpox may have an unobstructed field and grow into a scourge in the countries where ever since the introduction of vaccination it has been strictly controlled.

Nordica

A king on his throne has not the breathless interest for a great number of people that a great singer has. A king can travel out of his kingdom. Wherever she goes a prima donna is never within sight of her frontiers. From the time of her majority, which is celebrated whenever her voice is cultivated to the virtuosa standard, she is a queen and the world is her court. But alas! when her voice loses its sweetness her abdication is bitter.

No girl or woman saw the magnificent Nordica last Friday night at the auditorium in the midst of twenty-three hundred humbled courtiers that she did not fancy herself diadem-crowned, in cloth of gold, with a king's ransom about her throat and clad with the conscious power over hearts and imaginations which a kingdom can not buy. It was idle then to prate of equality in birth. Dowered with a magnificent physique, a queenly presence and a voice of great sweetness, there are out of the millions of created men, only perhaps a dozen with a gift like hers. Stimulated by the singer's intoxicant, a multitude in the right mood, Madame Nordica sang like an angel, and with as little effort. Two hours' singing taxes the singing mechanism of even the most powerful throat and chest. Then Madame sang little love songs in French, German, Spanish and English. At the end, when her task performed with extra-human grace and lightness, she might no longer save her strength, she sang an aria from an Hungarian opera, full of despair and rebellion. The multitude which had begun to stir was quieted and awed by this finally convincing evidence of sovereignty.

Nordica's hour of abdication is still distant. In the faces of those she sings

to there is no sign of the approach of a new sovereign. It will come and the past will be to her as a handful of ashes. While she reigns I would that the wish of her countrymen to hear English lyrics from the lips of an American might be gratified. "I love you" has the oo and o sounds of the cooing dove. It is more musical than "Ish liebe dish" and even Germans prefer the English form to the Teutonic phrase whose endings are effected by musical license. Nordica undoubtedly has the erudition so common to singers. She can sing in ten languages, but we would rather hear her in our own and her own dear English. When she sings in English the clear, round, unhurried syllables are delightful and help to a comprehension of the mood of the composition.

Nordica's concert was an event of the year so near its passing. The faith of the group of business men who, so the newspapers announced, induced the prima donna to come here was rewarded by a large audience and the gratitude of two thousand people toward the anonymous "group."

Love or Money

Prince Henry, Queen Wilhelmina's bridegroom, was sad on his wedding day. The triumphant, glorified expression of a bridegroom was lacking. Since he slapped the Queen for refusing to pay his gambling debts and then ran away to Prussia, his melancholy mien on his wedding day is remembered and the gossips say that he did not wish to marry Queen Wilhelmina, but that Emperor William, the man who arranges more matches and intimidates more unwilling brides and bridegrooms than any other man in the world, told him he had to. At the first trouble the Prince started immediately for William, perhaps in order to be the first to tell the Emperor that he was just as unhappy as he expected to be.

When the Dutch get mad they stay mad. For slapping his vrow when every patriotic Hollander was praying for a male heir to the throne, the Dutch have cast the silly and vicious Prince into outer darkness. Not that Dutchmen think a husband is not entirely within his rights and even his duty when he slaps his wife, but Wilhelmina is the sacred figure of the state and there are times when even a Dutchman should not strike his wife. Henry, the Prussian, slapped Holland when he slapped the Queen.

The virtuous Hollander, who has vented his ill-nature many times by kicking his wife, anathematizes Henry, because he is a German and a foreigner and has dared to assault their Goddess of Liberty. As for Henry, he is an impecunious younger son, with precisely the current German contempt of woman and determination to do his best to keep her in her place. Queen or peasant it is all the same to the Prussian. She is a woman and bound by the laws of nature and of God to render her husband obedience. It is the hereditary German custom to beat wives who refuse to obey, and after Henry married Wilhelmina he no longer worried about his several million dollars worth of gambling debts. He knew that if she refused to pay he could beat her till she consented and that all Germany would approve his firmness. Knowing that conjugal discipline was strictly sustained by Dutchmen, he did not reckon upon the storm of indignation which would follow his assault upon the Queen of Holland. But there is only one Queen and a greater regard for the succession should have induced "this gallous young hound" to postpone his assertion of a husband's Dutch rights and duty.

European correspondents report that through the intervention of Dowager Queen Emma the quarrel has been ar-

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