

# THE AMERICAN.

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## HISTORY OF NURSING.

MRS. BEDFORD-FENWICK RELATES SOME INTERESTING FACTS.

From Earliest Ages the Sick Have Been Cared for by the Kind Hearted—For Only Thirty Years Has the Art as Now Understood Been Practiced.

Mrs. Bedford-Fenwick, whom many American women will remember pleasantly in connection with the British nurses' exhibit at the fair, says the Chicago Herald, has been writing about the history and the art of nursing in an English paper. She says in part:

It is only within the last 30 years that the art of nursing as we now understand it has been taught and practiced upon a scientific basis, although from the earliest ages of which we possess any records the fact has been recognized that attendance on the sick and suffering is a work dictated by the noblest instincts of humanity. Although the names of celebrated Greek physicians are bandied down to us side by side with those of their great warriors and poets, although hospitals built by the Buddhist kings of Ceylon and Cashmire existed for hundreds of years before the birth of Christ, and Hindoos raised their "sickhouses" for animals as well as men centuries before the first Christian ecclesiastic was founded, it is only within comparatively modern times that we find any prominent part assigned to nursing in public institutions in connection with the healing art. In fact, it was not until Christianity became a state religion, and emperors and kings founded hospitals as part of the duty inculcated upon them by their creed, that ladies came publicly forward to nurse and feed lepers and beggars, and knights formed themselves into orders for the protection of pilgrims in poverty or illness. After this brotherhoods were established, such as the Franciscans, whose special duty was the nursing of the sick and which still further exemplified the fact that it was considered beneath the dignity of the iron man of those days to care for the weakly and the ailing, and that the attendance upon such was essentially a work for the gentle and compassionate. In the old Scandinavian songs and sagas it is the women who wait upon the wounded, watch the dying and mourn the dead. It was their duty to know all the times and signs of sickness and to prepare with mysterious rites, drugs as well as charms and love philtres.

Then, as time went on, those who devoted their lives to the care of the sick began to band themselves together into communities and sisterhoods, among which perhaps the most famous were the Hospital Sisters of St. Catherine and St. Elizabeth. In the times of great plagues, when all fled, we learn that it was these women who remained steadfast at their posts, dying among the sufferers whom they had in charge, faithful to their calling—a noble example for all future generations of nurses. When, during the crusades, the terrible scourge of leprosy swept over Europe, its victims

were received into general hospitals, which in many instances long maintained their original designation, although their internal organization was slowly altered to meet their new requirements. A great impulse was given to nursing by Pope Innocent III, who, at the beginning of the fifteenth century, established the great Hospital of St. Spirito at Rome, placing it under the control of Guy de Montpellier, founder of the Nursing Order of the Holy Ghost. Modified as to its arrangements to meet modern views, it remains to this day a magnificent monument of the benevolent wisdom of its originator. The first nursing body bearing a distinctly secular character were the Sisters of Mercy of St. Vincent de Paul. The founder of that order undoubtedly gave the impulse to modern nursing when he ordained that his followers should have "no monasteries but the houses of the sick, no cells but a hired room, no cloisters but the streets of the town and the wards of the hospital, no inclosure but obedience and for convent bars only the fear of God. For a veil they have a holy and perfect modesty, and while they keep themselves from the infection of vice they sow the seeds of virtue wherever they turn their steps."

In England since the downfall of the monastic institutions, nursing has passed almost entirely out of the hands of religious orders, but abroad, until within the last generation, it has more or less remained under their control. But everywhere nursing for more than a century seemed to have lost its former high ideals and to have lapsed into the hands of those who brought discredit on the calling and often-times danger to the sick. It is only within our own times that the old feeling has again arisen that it is woman's privilege to attend upon the sick; that the profession, so far from being derogatory, only calls forth the highest and brightest qualities of womanhood.

It is difficult to estimate or even faithfully describe the advances which have been made during the last 20 years. Large and small hospitals have united in giving definite instruction in the science and art of nursing to educated gentlemen, who in larger and larger numbers every year have entered the calling. New and improved methods have been and constantly are being introduced, and the general level of usefulness and efficiency is steadily being raised.

The next and final development in the history of nursing must consist in improved methods of education and of subsequent employment for nurses. During the transition period through which we have been passing in the last few years, immense diversity of system as regards the training given to their probationers has prevailed in different hospitals. In some the scientific side has been developed highly, in others the practical side has been chiefly insisted upon, and for a proper education it is essential that both should receive due and equal consideration.

**Why the Hair Whitens.**

I give the following, the authority being Tilms: "Doctors and Patients": "Chemists have discovered that hair contains an oil, a nucleus substance, iron, oxide of magnesia, phosphate and carbonate of iron, flint and a large proportion of sulphur. White hair contains also phosphate of magnesia, and its oil is nearly colorless. When hair becomes suddenly white from terror, it is probably owing to the sulphur absorbing the oil, as in the operation of whitening clothes."

The above is probably a good explanation, but why does such chemical change take place simply because the mind is paralyzed with fright?—St. Louis Republic.

**Lev Wallace as an Artist.**

It is safe to say that none of General Lew Wallace's literary efforts has attracted the attention that one of his paintings did many years ago. He painted a cupid with purple wings, which led to no end of discussion among the Hoosier art critics, who maintained that white was the regulation color for such appendages. The general is a clever artist as well as author, lawyer, statesman, diplomat and soldier.—New York Mail and Express.

**Embarrassing.**

Algy—I had a most horribly embarrassing accident once. Took off my coat with my topcoat in church, don't you know?

Betty—Aw, that wasn't half bad. Why, yesterday me twosers came unrolled on Bwooday.—Life.

## MATRIMONY EXTRAORDINARY.

The Remarkable Experience of a Man Who Married Four Sisters.

Living in the mountains of this country is a family which has a singular history in a matrimonial way. The father owns a little farm and four daughters, or did own the latter. A man named Phillips about 15 years ago married the eldest of these daughters, and after a few years of married life the lady ran away with the husband's sworn enemy. He presented a divorce from her and would thousand times and took her home, but the next day the woman turned up at home and said she wouldn't live with Phillips and after a time succeeded in getting legally free from him.

Then the third sister, undaunted by what had gone before, married the husband of her two sisters. Soon after this the fellow was sent to the penitentiary for an offense that kept him three years there, and when he came out he found that his wife's fiekie fancy had strayed while he was absent and had fixed itself upon a neighbor, John Callahan. By law she was entitled to divorce from her husband, as he was a convicted felon, so getting it she married her lover.

In the meantime the first wife was found that the man with whom she had eloped would not marry her after Phillips had divorced her and returned home. Then Mrs. Callahan wandered back to her father, for husband No. 2 would not support her. So in this way the old man had once more his four daughters on his hands, and Phillips—still free.

The youngest daughter was now about 18, and also fell a victim to the fascination the man Phillips appears to have exerted over them all at first, and becoming infatuated with him consented to marry him. Phillips went to the father for the fourth time to ask for a daughter's hand and was told that he might have her on condition that he kept her.

Phillips promised, and the ceremony was to take place the following night, when the ex-wives, growing jealous, armed themselves and swore that the marriage should never take place. So Phillips rode to town and swore out a warrant against the sisters, telling of their threats. The women were sworn then to keep the peace, but Phillips thought it prudent, however, to run away with his bride to Kentucky and marry her there. This time his venture seems to have terminated happily, for he has three children and is prospering.—Murfreesboro Cor. Philadelphia Times.

## Lizards as Pets and Playmates.

Professor Delboeuf has contributed an interesting article on the psychology of lizards to *The Revue Scientifique*. He is the happy possessor of a band of lizards, including a Spanish and a French one, which he has introduced to fame. The Spaniard is bold, snappish, stupid and suspicious; the Frenchman, timid, gentle, confiding and straightforward. Nevertheless they became great friends, and when the Frenchman was lost for 26 days he found his way home, having a road over it, but atti-

## MAPLE LEAF EXCURSION.

The Beautiful Autumn Festival That is Observed by the Japanese.

In our rambles about Kloko and its environs we had seen a good deal of the participation for the maple leaves in their autumn colors, but not until we made an excursion to Takao-Zan did we fully realize the extent of this passion of the people. It is not the maple leaves alone which attract their attention. Every season has its appropriate blossoms in which the public delight is manifested. Plum and cherry blossoms, wisterias, lotus flowers, chrysanthemums and maple leaves are the staples. Plantations of these have existed in and near the principal cities for hundred of years, and every famous garden had the whole assortments. Takao-Zan is the greatest resort for maple leaves by the public.

On the road as we neared Takao-Zan we found ourselves in a great procession of people. It was Sunday, and with other features of western civilization the Japanese had adopted Sunday so far as to make it a day of rest in the schools and public offices. So there were a great many school-teachers and pupils in the crowds, but besides them men, women and children, family parties and all sorts of picnic groups. Some were already returning before noon as we approached. Tea-houses begin to abound when we get within a mile of the place, each with a merry crowd. The road becomes rougher and more hilly, and we leave our jinrikishas to walk the last mile. The road swarms with people. There is a nest of teahouses at the end of the route, and their annexes run up the side of a steep hill, which commands a view of the gorge. We find all the places crowded and keep climbing up by zigzags until we reach the very top. Here a Japanese party politely make room for us on the mats of a simple platform having a roof over it, but no sides to obstruct the view.

We found our neighbors very interesting and amusing. They at once put themselves on the most familiar terms with us, sharing our tiffin and offering us theirs in return. There were half a dozen gentlemen and three ladies. One of the latter had a samisen, the Japanese guitar, and played and sang to it, while one of the gentlemen, evidently a clever comedian, danced to the music after the manner of the geisha girls. They all were enjoying their merrymaking to the full and added not a little to our enjoyment, for it was the people rather than the maples that we went out to see. There must have been thousands there that day. The great majority of them walked both ways, from 12 to 20 miles, stopping at frequent teahouses and making a real jollification of the whole day's experience. There were also hundreds of jinrikishas, but no other kind of conveyance. On our way back we did see one other form of carriage—the old kago—a sort of palanquin, borne on men's shoulders by a pole. Some fellow mortal who had got through all his picnics on this earth was journeying in it to his last home, followed by a few friends on foot. He squatted in the kago on this last ride, as he had always done,

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