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Note and Comment.

Moscow has the largest hospital in Europe, with 7,000 beds. There are 96 physicians and 900 nurses, and about 15,000 patients are cared for annually.

Before the Siberian railway was available a trip from London to Shanghai cost from \$325 to \$475. Now it can be made for from \$65 third class, to \$160 first class.

A Winnipeg despatch says: A colony of Mennonites from Nebraska will settle on a block of 80,000 acres of land on the shores of Lake Manitoba during the next couple of months.

The accounts of the Committee of the Church of Scotland for the year 1901 show a satisfactory increase of income over the year 1900, which in turn showed an increase over 1899. The total income in 1901 was £220,492, as against £208,228 in 1900, and £201,041 in 1899.

The cloth of gold for the pallium of the Royal mantle, which the King will wear at the Coronation, is now finished, and has been sent from the loom at Braintree to the Royal School of Needlework. In form (says the "Onlooker") the mantle is made four square, and is buckled in front, something after the manner of an episcopal cope.

Russia and Austria are said to have come to a private understanding to do everything in their power towards maintaining peace in the Balkans. With this view they have renewed their warnings to the Governments of Servia and Bulgaria against giving any countenance whatever to the secret societies that are endeavoring to foment troubles in Macedonia.

In Manila there was no law by which any church could hold property except the Roman Catholic Church. The Methodists trying to secure a site found that they could not. They told Governor Taft of this state of affairs, and he at once drafted an Act which was sanctioned by the Commission, enabling churches of any denomination to hold real estate.

In the current number of the United Free Church *Missionary Record* there is a series of articles on the "Present Protestant Movement in Austria," known familiarly as the "Free from Rome" movement. The information is communicated by Professor Clemen, of Halle, Rev. Dr. J. G. Cunningham, and Rev. Dr. Robertson, of St. Ninian's, Stirling.

At Mr. Rhode's funeral Secombi, a notable Matabele chief, together with his Indunas, gave a royal salute to the body. This is a unique honour for a white man from the natives. Secombi said—"Now the body of our great chief Umzilikatze and that of the great white chief both rest in the Matoppos, and their spirits will meet in a great tudeba (council) in the hereafter."

Lady Dundonald, who will shortly have to take up her residence in Canada owing to her husband's appointment, is a Welsh heiress, and a very graceful and charming woman. Miss Winifred Hesketh, as she was before her marriage, owns a Welsh Castle, near Abergele. Gwyrch Castle is a beautiful place, of which Lady Dundonald is a delightful *chatelaine*; and, although she and the Parish Council disagreed some little time since on the subject of the lopping or non-lopping of trees, they made it up long ago, and are now excellent friends.

The Earl of Dundonald, who is going to command in Canada, is not only a splendid soldier, but a military inventor, some of whose equipments, notably the Dundonald gun-carriage, have been invaluable. On the Nile where he commanded the detachment of the 2nd Life Guards—the Camel Corps—which went to the relief of Gordon, he was a great success. After his Egyptian service, he commanded the 2nd Life Guards, but resigned in 1899. His real chance came to him in South Africa, where he acquitted himself with great distinction.

The Pope has addressed a long Encyclical to "the Episcopate of the Catholic world." After thanking God for having granted him an exceptionally long tenure of the Holy See, His Holiness says that his Encyclical will almost constitute his testament, which he wishes to convey to his people with a wish for their common salvation. The Pope then reviews all the persecutions to which the Church has at different times been subjected, mentioning especially the struggle with Luther, and the bitter warfare waged upon the Church by modern philosophy and systems of rationalism and materialism, which, he says, penetrate even into the organisation of the State, and overthrow order, both in the family and in society.

Two thirds of all the letters which pass through the post offices of the world are written by and sent to people who speak English, says Bradstreet's. There are substantially 500,000,000 persons speaking colloquially one or other of the ten or twelve chief modern languages, and of these about 25 per cent, or 125,000,000 persons speak English. About 90,000,000 speak Russian, 75,000,000 German, 55,000,000 French, 45,000,000 Spanish, 35,000,000 Italian and 12,000,000 Portuguese, and the balance Hungarian, Dutch, Polish, Flemish, Bohemian, Gaelic, Roumanian, Swedish, Finnish, Danish and Norwegian. Thus, while only one-quarter of those who employ the facilities of postal departments of civilized governments speak as their native tongue English, two-thirds of those who correspond do so in the English language. There are, for instance, more than 20,000 post offices in India, the business of which in letters and papers aggregates more than 300,000,000 a year, and the business of these offices is done chiefly in English, though of India's total population, which is nearly 300,000,000 fewer than 300,000 persons either speak or understand English.

According to a Reuter telegram, Count Leo Tolstoy has nearly recovered from the inflammation of the lungs, but he is so thin and weak that it is impossible to leave him alone for a moment. The doctors have forbidden him to speak, and his attendants not only avoid talking to him, but also refuse to write what he at times attempts to dictate.

Pundita Ramabai writes in a recent report:—"There are now 1950 girls under my care of whom 1600 are widows. Many of the older girls saved from the famine of 1897 have made satisfactory progress in their studies, fifty-two of them are being trained as teachers and kindergarteners. The church at Mukti is nearing completion, and is used on week days for school purposes. The members, nearly all of whom are from the school, are taught to take an interest in the spread of the Gospel, and to give cheerfully toward it according to their ability. They give from their little savings, and those who are able give up one meal a day on Sunday. The money thus saved goes to feed and clothe the poor and needy living around the establishment and in the villages near.

A son of "Ian MacLaren," the preacher and novelist (the Rev. Dr. John Watson), has gone to the front as an officer, with his father's full approval. At a meeting which he attended the other day Dr. Watson defended himself from reproaches that had been levelled at him by some people for this action. He could not, he said, understand the position of people who ran down the army and yet were citizens of the Empire. What would they do if this country were attacked? None of his critics ventured to answer the question. What would they do if they found a man in their house at night, ill-treating one of their children? Would they read the Beatitudes to him? Personally, he declared frankly that he would take the poker and use it vigorously. The principle was identical in national defence.

The controversy which has been raging in the columns of the Church of England evangelical paper, "The Record", on the subject of "Keswick" teaching is of wide interest, since on the Keswick platform Anglicans and Dissenters unite for the propagation of the holiness teaching which has come to be associated with the great convention held annually at the pretty "lake" town. A number of Church writers have fallen foul of the Keswick school, and as many more have depicted his effects upon the spiritual life of the nation in glowing terms. A fervent Reswickian sums the views of his party in definite statements:—(1) God does deliver the Christian, on confession and repentance, from every evil habit by his own definite action, and He does enable us to reckon ourselves actually "dead unto sin." (2) God does so act on the surrendered heart by His cleansing and adjusting grace as to make it meet to be the abiding dwelling place of His own Spirit. (3) God does give to the Christian, thus delivered and cleansed and adjusted, His own Indwelling Spirit in all His fulness as the secret of abiding, victorious life and fruitful service.