

nurses at the Richmond and Whitworth Government hospitals. As both these ladies have had the great advantage of working under Miss Huxley at the Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, in Dublin, it may be expected that they will greatly improve the system of nursing pursued at these hospitals. Everyone is greatly surprised at the rapid advance and increased efficiency in the nursing department since Miss Huxley became the lady superintendent of Sir Patrick Dun's. The Richmond, Whitworth, and Hardwicke Government Hospitals are under the control of a board of Governors, appointed by the Lord Lieutenant. They contain 312 beds, in three distinct buildings, in North Brunswick Street, Dublin, viz., the Richmond, 110 beds for surgical cases; the Whitworth, 82 for medical; and the Hardwicke, 120 for fevers and epidemic diseases.

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LORD CHIEF JUSTICE BOWEN presided at the Annual Festival Dinner of King's College Hospital the other day, and, in giving the toast of the evening, paid a high compliment to the nursing staff of the institution, particularly noticing a recent invention made by Mr. Rose and Miss Monk the sister-matron. This is a wheeled couch, which is really a most ingenious operating table, with movable supports for the back, head, and legs. I hear that another of its kind is in use at the Royal Free Hospital, and probably other places will adopt it as soon as its great advantages become more widely known.

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THE poor Pension Fund! I daresay many readers of this journal may not have seen a letter which appeared last week in the *British Medical Journal*, and which curiously reiterates the sentiments I have myself expressed upon the subject. It ran as follows: "Sir,—Now that the subject of the Pension Fund is under discussion, there are many nurses who would be glad to have their own opinion on the matter made public, and who would be grateful to you if you would make it known through your paper. In the first place, surely the word 'Pension' is misleading; the dictionaries define it as 'an allowance made without an equivalent.' Of course, no nurse would be so unreasonable as to expect her services to be so rewarded; but there certainly is a very widely spread feeling of disappointment that the terms of the Pension Fund are such as to render it almost an impossibility for nurses to join it. So much has been written in the *Hospital* about the duty of making provision for the noble women who are devoting their lives to the nursing of the sick, that the first feeling on receiving the prospectus was one of surprise that the provision was to be made almost entirely by themselves. It is true that very young nurses will find the terms comparatively easy, but the vast number who have already spent many years of their lives in this work will find it difficult,

if not impossible, to spare regularly from £20 to £40 per annum out of a salary which in the case of nurses never exceeds £40, and is in most instances considerably less.—I am, &c., A Nurse."

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I AM told by the Prize Essay judges that there was a great deal of difficulty experienced in deciding as to the relative merits of the candidates, as in its way each of the theses sent in was very good. Finally they awarded the first prize to Miss Loch, whose article, Mr. Editor tells me, will appear in this week's number, and to whom he will send a list of books published at one guinea for that lady to select her prize from. I hear that the work she chooses will be sent to her with an inscription inside it, stating how it was gained, and that this same procedure will be adopted in all future cases. As I expected, a good deal of original power has been shown, it appears, by the various writers. I suppose it is not a secret, but the judges, I hear, so strongly commended Miss Dannatt's and Miss Pincoff's essays, that Mr. Editor has promised to find space, if possible, for both of them in due course.

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MISS MARY C. LOCH, I am told, was a Special Probationer at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, but had only completed about fourteen months of training when she was obliged to return to home duties and nursing. She was, it seems, extremely and universally popular, and it is much to be hoped that a lady who is evidently so well calculated in every way to make her mark in the nursing world may some day be enabled to return to active hospital work. Miss Alice Dannatt went through her training at, and subsequently became Matron of, the Royal Infirmary, Manchester. She has also been Matron Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, Preston, and is well known for her complete knowledge, practical as well as theoretical, of nursing matters. Like Miss Loch, she is, I understand, also at present engaged in home duties. Miss Maria C. Pincoff, who takes a good third place in the competition, was trained at the Salisbury Infirmary, and is now engaged in private nursing.

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Two meetings to discuss and consider the details of registration for nurses were held last week, one by the invitation of Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, at Upper Wimpole Street, where a most interesting discussion took place, in which Mr. Page, of St. Mary's, Dr. Kingston Fowler, of the Middlesex, Mr. Gant, of the Royal Free, and several other well-known medical men, matrons, and sisters, took part. The other was held at the National Hospital in Queen Square, when Dr. Buzzard took the chair, and Mr. Brudenell Carter put the points for and against registration in a nutshell with the skill and clearness of explanation for which he is so well known.

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