

I AM asked to remind my readers that the election of candidates for the British Home for Incurables takes place on Thursday, May the 8th, at twelve o'clock, at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon Street, E.C. Will all who can do their utmost to obtain votes for Mrs. Sarah Duyck? I should really like Mrs. Duyck to be successful this time, as I am afraid that several other cases will shortly have to be brought to the attention of the supporters and patrons of the *Nursing Record*. I sincerely trust that I am not too pertinacious in thus once more bringing Mrs. Duyck's urgent circumstances before those friends who have worked so heartily for her on several previous occasions.

I AM informed that the Staff of Sisters at the Fever Hospital, Monsall, Manchester, has been recently increased from four to six. Miss Brown and Miss S. Peter were appointed to fill the vacancies. Miss Brown has been recently Night Superintendent of the Bristol Royal Infirmary, and Miss Peter Night Superintendent of the Children's Hospital, Pendlebury, Manchester. Also that Miss Rosa M. Bowesman, Sister at the Monsall Fever Hospital, Manchester, has been appointed Matron of the Medical Mission Hospital, at Antananarivo, Madagascar. Miss Bowesman holds the Obstetrical Society's diploma, and was trained at Crumpsall Infirmary. The above information reached me too late for insertion in last week's "Echoes."

I LEARN that a new shilling's worth, in the shape of a novel, entitled "The Witness Box, or, the Murder of Mr. A.B.C.," written by my talented colleague who writes the "Women and their Work" column, Miss Veva Karsland, author of "Smitten and Slain," "Mad! Mad! Mad!" &c., and Collis Karsland, author of "My Friend," &c., is in the press, and will be published, early in April, by Messrs. Trischler and Co., of New Bridge Street, E.C. The *dénouement* of the story is startling, and deals with a scientific discovery which, up to the present, has never been introduced into the pages of fiction.

I HAVE been wanting space for a fortnight past to correct an error which crept into the "Echoes" of March 27. I then stated that, "I regret to hear that Mrs. Perry, who has done such good work in the East End, has been compelled, through ill-health, to resign her post as Matron of the Whitechapel Infirmary." The *fact* is that Mrs. Perry resigned her appointment for change of locality and for temporary rest, and *not* through ill-health.

I AM indebted to the kindness of the Honorary Secretary of the Gorleston Cottage Hospital, who informs me that Miss C. B. Nilkie, of the Cottage Hospital, of St. Helens, Lancashire, has been appointed Matron of the first-named Institution.

S. G.

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

SCHOOL MATRONS.

MANY ladies in reduced circumstances now turn their thoughts to the chances of becoming a Matron in some large school or in some Institution. The idea has the great charm of not needing any definite training, though from a professional point of view Matrons suffer terribly from this very fact, for so many apply who are utterly unfit for the work. A good Matron need not of necessity be clever, or versed in the study of algebra or conic sections, or up in Latin, or even a fluent scholar; but she must have some idea of book-keeping, be equal to the tradesman, yet, withal, civil to him, and accustomed to deal with servants, and having the necessary tact and firmness to keep them in good order, and yet not to be for ever changing them. She must be practical, orderly, methodical, punctual, and endowed with the unusual quality of common sense to prove a success. The work itself is monotonous, but not hard. In an Institution, of course, the characters of the inmates must be considered to a certain extent, and thus a Matron, if not sympathetic, may fail by turning the Institution into a machine, and the very mockery of the word Home; whilst one imbued with the milk of human kindness, and full of divine charity, finds a sphere of usefulness, a power for home missionary work, placed to her hand—a work none the less noble, less true, because it be a quiet work found in the path of every day duty. But woman's education, her oftentimes slight knowledge of life, as well as the natural bent of her mind, all tend to narrowness of thought, and thus the wide-minded, large-hearted, yet practical and sensible woman who makes the ideal Matron is very difficult to find; when found, she proves a treasure indeed. For schools, a knowledge of needlework is almost essential, as one of the principal duties is to attend to—or at least superintend—the "young ladies'" or "young gentlemen's" wardrobes. A Matron of a large school receives from £50 to £150 per annum. Good testimonials I need hardly say are necessary, and recommendations are useful. The Matrons of Hospitals need a thorough knowledge of Nursing to be added to the above acquirements. Matrons of Convalescent, Rescue, and Orphan Homes must be strong and healthy, for in many of the smaller they are ex-

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