

will have to be Trained Nurses, thoroughly familiar with the work of tending passengers.

THE same journal has a full account of the British Nurses' Association pension scheme. I am glad to see the medical press and authorities recognising this important movement at its true and full value.

*Baby* for this month, under the able editorship of Miss Ada Ballin, has been sent to me. It contains a sensible, practical article by the editress on "Physical Exercises in Board Schools," and another one on amusing the children, by Mrs. A. Wallace.

It appears that, after all, at least half of what was reported against Sister Rose Gertrude is, as usual in these cases, not true. She remains at Honolulu as a governess, and there is no truth whatever in the report that she is engaged to be married to Dr. Lutz.

AN interesting, valuable, and peculiar "find" took place recently at Milan. In the well-known Hospital there, whilst some walls were being scraped by the workmen, there was brought to light a copy of the famous "Last Supper" of Leonardo da Vinci.

THE *Fenness-Miller Magazine* for October, which Messrs. Macfarlane and Co., of 181, Fleet Street, have forwarded me, contains an excellent article, entitled "The Philosophy of Motion," by J. F. Walker, M.D., in which it is sought to be proved that physical motion is absolutely necessary for the preservation and retention of health. Nurses might do worse than peruse the article, as it is full of practical hints concerning exercise.

THE Birkenhead Fever Hospital appears to be in considerable trouble, judging from the report in a local journal, which goes on to state:—"It is alleged that this institution is not a place for the isolation of disease, but rather a centre from which infection is disseminated. The building, which lies low in the midst of a densely-populated neighbourhood, is described as consisting of a pair of old villas in a dilapidated state. Behind these are two tolerably new pavilions, containing well-lighted Wards, in each of which are ten beds, but the Staff at the Hospital consists only of an ex-Crimean soldier and his wife, who are not Trained Nurses. Recently the gentleman acting for the Medical Officer in his absence contracted typhus fever, while attending cases in the Hospital. The married daughters of the Crimean soldier and wife, who were engaged to scrub the

floors, have also, it is reported, been attacked by the same disease and removed to the Hospital as patients. Alarmed at the high mortality in the Hospital, the Committee lately obtained two Trained Nurses, but both of these have also been stricken down since they entered on their duties, and are now patients in the Institution. Two other Nurses who were sent for refused to stay, and it is alleged that their reason was the insanitary and disorderly condition of the Hospital. It is stated that in view of these facts a memorial has been presented to the Mayor urging that steps should be taken to remedy this unsatisfactory condition of things." I wish these people well out of the very ugly mess they appear to be in; but all this sort of thing strongly emphasises the necessity of a Commission of Enquiry into the administration of our Hospitals, both in London and in the provinces.

THE *Nightingale*, of New York, has in its last issue received by me the following letter, which again proves that organization of some kind is desired by most sensible Nurses throughout the world.

"To the Editor of *The Nightingale*: I am not personally interested in the opening of a directory for Nurses in New York, but only as having been for nearly three years connected with the Brooklyn Directory, and knowing how very beneficial it would be to Nurses, Physicians and the public. I think it a very serious drawback that in New York the Physician should be so often called to hunt up a Nurse when his time may be of great value and a life may depend upon his presence in the sick room. Again, the present directories are unfair to the Nurse. They charge three dollars for registering, and then ten to fifteen per cent. of your earnings. No woman will pay this enormous percentage if she can possibly get work without it. Physicians do not, I think, as a rule, know how large this fee is. I have spoken with a number of prominent Physicians and they say that a central directory would be a great convenience, and would undoubtedly succeed. The Brooklyn directory was founded some six years ago, by an appropriation of five dollars by the Brooklyn Medical Society. There are now some two hundred and sixty-five Nurses on its roll, and it is self-supporting and a complete success. Nurses pay a five dollar fee the first year and two dollars yearly afterwards. Now in a city like New York the expenses of finding a Nurse would be greater and the fee would require to be larger, but still it need not be burdensome. It seems to me that the Academy of Medicine is the proper body to take this matter up, and that under its auspices

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