

defence. Their evidence was to the effect that the food was generally good and sufficient, and only occasionally such as to justify any complaint. When fault had been found the quality had improved. Nurse Hopkins expressed the view that sick people were rather prone to discontent and grumbling, and to this description of the class those at Homerton were no exception.

THIS evidence was not, however, corroborated by Miss Emily Aston, who came all the way from Gibraltar to give evidence, and who did not think that Institution, of which she was Matron for nearly three years, had reached the limits of perfection. She confirmed most of the charges made respecting the food; its quality was indifferent, the fish was coarse and had a strong unpleasant smell, the potatoes almost invariably bad, the meat fat and bony and unsuitable for sick persons—and so on. The discipline at Homerton also left much to be desired. Witness brought some charges against the Doctor, which the Commissioners hesitated to admit, but eventually the deposition was accepted. One of her statements, which caused much amusement in the audience, was that once, when they were discussing the Steward, Dr. Collie said the Steward was a fool, and that any one could see as much directly he raised his hat; there was no room for brains, he was all lower jaw and voice. Perhaps the Superintendent of Homerton is a phrenologist.

ANYWAY, there was apparently very little good feeling between Dr. Alexander Collie and Miss Aston, to judge from the "gusto" with which this energetic lady revealed the "secrets of the prison-house."

"THE gentle art of making poultices" appears to be variously and peculiarly understood. One of my Nursing friends in the backwoods of one of our Colonies wrote me a long letter some time ago, a portion of which I published in these columns, stating that she "frequently had to make poultices in a bucket or any other utensil she could get, and be glad to get it." This is nothing, however, for here, in civilised Great Britain, we can beat that hollow. I cull the following little gem from the evidence given in the above startling Eastern Hospital Inquiry:—"By Mr. Eldridge (to Miss Kate Jones, a Nurse): You have sometimes made poultices in a spittoon?—Yes, I have.—I suppose you make them in anything that comes handy?—No, I won't say that. I sometimes make them in a porringer."

THE following advertisement appeared in the

first column of the *Daily Telegraph* last week, a place of honour usually reserved for the kitchen-maids of our public institutions:—"St. Bartholomew's Hospital.—There are vacancies for probationary Nurses at this Hospital. Applicants, who must not be less than twenty-four years of age, can learn particulars by calling personally on the Matron on Tuesdays or Fridays at eleven o'clock."

MRS. OKELL has been appointed Matron to the Bridgwater Infirmary. She was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and has for upwards of three years held the responsible post of Assistant Matron to St. Saviour's Infirmary, Dulwich.

THE annual meeting of the Bradford Nurses' Institution was held last week in the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall. The report stated that during the year ten Nurses had completed their engagements with the Institution, and two others left on account of ill health. During the year the staff numbered fifty-nine Nurses and Probationers, and at the end of the year it consisted of thirty fully Trained Nurses and eleven Probationers. The Nurses had attended 776 weeks at private houses, and 458 weeks at Hospitals, whilst the district visits numbered 5,723. On the year's work there was a balance of £200 to the good for the Institution. On account of the flourishing condition of the finances, it was decided that gratuities should be given to those Nurses who had served the Institution four years, and whose conduct had earned the confidence of patients and committee. Dr. Mossop intimated that the ladies in connection with places of worship in Manningham intended engaging the services of a Nurse permanently to attend the sick poor in that district.

IN our issue of the 19th ult., we stated with reference to the Hospitals' Association "that it published no accounts at all in its last annual report, and that this reflected discredit on the Society." We made this assertion on the strength of the fact that at the last annual meeting of the Association printed copies of the report of the Council were presented and read and handed to the representatives of the press who were present, but no accounts were heard read by the reporters, nor were any appended to the report. We were told of this fact on excellent authority at the time, together with other very important information respecting the history and management of the Association, but have not previously commented upon it. Now we are informed that "in the annual report of the Association for 1890 there is included an audited

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