

MISS McILVAINE is writing an interesting series of articles in the *Nation* on the Parisian hospitals and benevolent institutions.

THE system of Home Hospitals still continues to gain popularity, and the Home for private patients at Plymouth seems to have been opened under most promising circumstances. A kind correspondent sends me the following cutting from some paper, but does not mention its name:—

"The house is admirably situated on high ground, and surrounded by well-matured grounds, and what is even more important, it cannot by any possibility be built in. Those who were familiar with the house in bygone years would now hardly recognise it, so much has it been altered. Indeed, the original premises have been re-modelled, and additions made which have about doubled the size of the house. But, architecturally, the entire building is still an attractive one, with charming terraces and glass houses; and on the success with which he has planned these alterations, Mr. Charles King, of Princess Square, Plymouth, may be congratulated in no unstinted measure. The house, as now finished, comprises the usual reception rooms, seven bed-rooms available for patients, other necessary accommodation for Lady Superintendent and Nurses, including excellent kitchen offices. In such an Institution the first consideration is, of course, the health of the patients, and on this score intending visitors will have no cause for the least alarm. Everything which recent developments in sanitary science has placed to the hand of the householder has been utilised, and the house as regards comfort will not be found wanting. Its walls are coloured, that being of course more healthy than paper, in a most artistic fashion—in sky blue and white colours in the passages and corridors, and various other tints in other parts. The Lady Superintendent has an office on the ground floor, which is connected with the Western Counties telephone service, and from which run speaking tubes to the various landings, Nurses' rooms, and kitchens, the last-named in accordance with a rule which is gradually commending itself to the public, being at the top of the house. For domestic purposes there is a lift running from the top of the house to the bottom, and the arrangements as regards the water supply and bathroom and lavatory accommodation are excellent. The bedrooms are quite model sick rooms, the walls being artistically coloured in tints of the most soothing character, and due provision for ventilation being made by Tobin's fresh air inlets, one of these being in each room. The furnishing of the rooms has also received careful attention. Doctors always attach immense importance to the character of the beds, and therefore it is not surprising that the Directors should have provided the most convenient bedsteads with the most perfect copper spring mattresses obtainable.

"Another point of no inconsiderable importance is the heating of these rooms. By adopting a new style of low grate with Doulton's Majolica ware fireplaces, mantels, fenders, and tiles, it is anticipated that the necessity of constant cleaning will be done away with. Moreover, the consumption of fuel is so slow that the patients will not be continually disturbed by the poking and replenishing of the fire. As to the ordinary furniture it is of a thoroughly modern style, and has been supplied, with all the other furniture of the house, by Messrs. Popham, Radford and Co. All the bedrooms are pleasantly situated, those on the south

PARADOX EXTRACT OF MEAT AND MALT BISCUITS (Patented) are a boon to Nurses and Invalids. The *Lancet* says: "We agree that these Biscuits are rich in bone-forming materials." In 1s. tins. Write to Thorp and Co., Glossop, for sample and particulars. Special quotations for biscuits in bulk to Hospitals, &c. (7)

being in communication with an enclosed glazed ambulatory for winter use, and an open verandah for summer, with views of the Sound, and from other rooms pleasant views are obtainable of Dartmoor, away in the distance, and nearer at hand Saltram Woods and the Freedom Fields. Unique of its kind, the house has been so altered as to serve admirably as a private home at which patients will be able to stay, receiving the advice of any medical man whom they may desire to attend them. But, practically, everything will depend on the Staff to whose care the charge of the patients will be consigned. As Lady Superintendent the Directors have secured in Miss Champion a lady who has not only had a large experience as a Sister at the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, but has received training especially fitting her for such a responsible position at Gordon House, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's Home Hospital in Holles Street."

THE TRAINING OF NURSES IN MESSAGE AND MEDICAL ELECTRICITY.—I have been favoured with the particulars of the summer term examinations at Grafton College, Fitzroy Square, W., and am pleased to note that of the five pupils who gained certificates, one, an M.P., obtained high honours in electricity and electro-therapeutics; another, a Nurse from Burlington House, N.W., has passed "*with credit*." The subjects examined upon were anatomy, physiology, electricity, electro-therapeutics, and masso-therapeutics, both theoretical and practical. In the practical tests each student was given a prescription and a patient, and invited to ask for the appliances and accessories he or she thought necessary for the proper performance of the treatment prescribed. These being thus supplied, prescription had to be carried out on the patient, and questions answered in explanation of the method and movements employed. One of the prescriptions was "administer central galvanisation and massage back of trunk"; another, "administer electricity and massage to a case of chronic facial neuralgia." It seems to me that the thoroughness of this examination is very commendable, and that any Nurse holding the Grafton College certificate possesses qualifications in the subjects dealt with which medical men will gladly recognise as superior. In saying this, let us not frighten the timid. The three months' teaching which leads up to the examination has been carefully arranged, and is well within the capacity of any person of ordinary intelligence. The work of this College reflects great credit on the principal (Mr. H. Newman Lawrence) and his coadjutor (Dr. A. Harries), and we think they have done wisely in calling to their aid in the certificate examinations independent examiners in the persons of W. E. Simpson, D.Sc. (Lond.), in electricity, and J. Russell Harris, M.D., in anatomy and physiology.

I AM asked to again remind my readers that the "caps" to be sent in for the Special Prize Competition, for which a sewing-machine of the value:

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