

I AM asked by the Editors of the *Nursing Directory* to announce that they have decided—and that their decision has been accepted by the proprietors of the *Directory*, the Record Press, Limited—that they can only accept the names of *Registered Nurses, and of Nurses who hold a certificate of three years' training*, for insertion in the *Directory*. They regret that it is impossible to reply individually to the hundreds of letters which they have received. Any Nurse who holds the certificate above-mentioned may apply to the Editors, 87, Great Titchfield Street, London, W., sending her certificate, and all the information as to her Nursing career which she would like inserted in the *Directory*, and a stamped and addressed envelope for the return of the certificate. No charge is made for inserting names, and the Editors reserve to themselves the right to decline to insert any name if they think it inadvisable to do so. No names can be entered unless they are received before November 15th. The Editors are greatly pleased by the quick and business-like manner in which the forms they sent out have been returned to them.

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THE National Health Society has again commenced its winter campaign by organising special courses of lectures on sanitation, domestic and personal hygiene, elementary anatomy and physiology, and the nursing of accidents and disease. These lectures will be given in the lecture room of the Society, 53, Berners Street, W., by the Society's competent staff of lecturers, commencing on Oct. 13, at five p.m. (an hour suitable to those engaged during the day). They will be of a specially practical nature, and most suitable for those leaving school, being a most important and necessary course of study for all. Each lecture will be fully illustrated by interesting diagrams and models. For syllabus and all further particulars apply to the Secretary, 53, Berners Street, W. S. G.

INVENTIONS, NOTICES OF PREPARATIONS, &c.

ARTIFICIAL LIMBS.—There is no branch of mechanical art in which so much progress has been made of recent years as that of the manufacture of artificial limbs on a thoroughly scientific basis. There was a time—and not so very long ago, either—when the loss of an arm or leg was looked upon by the unfortunate sufferer as an irreparable calamity. The mechanical substitutes for the missing members were so crude in their design and so clumsy in their mechanism, that comparatively little benefit was derived from their

adoption. This is all changed now, for artificial limbs are constructed in the present day which absolutely defy detection, and at the same time ensure the maximum of possible comfort and utility to the wearer. There is one firm in London to whom the successful attainment of these objects is pre-eminently due, inasmuch that they, more than any others, have brought to bear upon the subject all that science could teach and mechanical art perform. Their patents have won the highest awards at every important exhibition for the last fifteen years—a fact quite sufficient in itself to prove the great superiority of their work, and the amount of anatomical knowledge with which they have invested it. The firm to which we refer is that of Messrs. J. and E. Ferris, 48, Great Russell Street, W.C. On visiting their establishment the other day we were quite astonished at the number and variety of the appliances for the relief of crippled humanity which their mechanical genius has called into existence. Every imaginable form of disablement has been intently studied and scientifically conquered. Perhaps the most striking of the exhibits is the artificial leg, fitted with an ankle joint with lateral movement. So closely has the natural ankle been imitated in this instance that, by means of certain mechanical combinations, Messrs. Ferris have succeeded (where others have failed) in producing motions precisely the same as the tibia and fibula with the astragalus in the natural leg. Almost as surprising in its way is the artificial arm, which this eminent firm have made a speciality. The elbow, wrist, and finger-joints are movable, and are controlled by a simple but clever mechanism, which enables them to handle light articles with perfection. Perhaps the best proof of the adaptability of this limb is afforded by an instance in which a gentleman who purchased one of them used the hand almost immediately in inditing a clear and well-written acknowledgment of its arrival to Messrs. Ferris. Hardly less interesting than the inspection of the handiwork of this firm is the perusal of the volume of gratifying testimonials they have received from all parts of the world. Writing of Messrs. Ferris' exhibit, the report of the Royal Military Exhibition, 1890, says: "We can confidently assert that these artificial limbs are the perfection of mechanical skill applied to an accurate knowledge of anatomy, and they are as different and superior to those of ordinary makers as it is possible to conceive." Both Doctors and Nurses in severe accident cases will, we are sure, be glad to know where their unfortunate patients can get the nearest approach to Nature's handicraft in the matter of limbs.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)