

HOSPITAL managers all seem on the *qui vive*. I hear that some wholesome and much-needed Hospital reforms are being effected in Glasgow, in consequence of the exposures at the Royal Infirmary. At Belvidere it has been discovered that the Nurse's hours on duty are from fourteen to fifteen daily. A committee is about to report in favour of reducing them to ten hours. The *North British Mail* pertinently asks: "If the Royal Infirmary exposures had never taken place, would the Town Council Committee ever have discovered that the Nurses at Belvidere were on duty fifteen hours? How long is it since the convener of the Belvidere Committee assured the Council that the Hospital management was—simply perfection?"

At the Belfast General Hospital an investigation has been directed by the Hospital authorities, owing to the action of the Coroner, Dr. Dill, who, after holding an inquest on a patient who had died from septicæmia, remarked that he had often called attention to the foul condition of the Institution, and the disease in this case had been caused, in his opinion, by the impure air of the Ward. He concluded by hoping that none of the jurors would ever have the misfortune to come into the Hospital with an open wound.

THE Medical Schools, with one exception, opened last week, in the best of spirits, and, to judge from the reports, have mostly been indulging lavishly in the use of bricks and mortar. This shows a commendable spirit of progress and emulation. From Guy's comes the good news that more Students have entered the School than in any recent year, largely due, I do not doubt, to the new Residential College. Papa and Mamma think young Hopeful is safe when under the roof and paternal protection of the Warden of a College. At the London, Dr. Stephen Mackenzie, in replying at the dinner on behalf of the College Board, alluded to the falling-off in the number of entries—*due to the raising of the general fee*. This is not a very good reason for a most deplorable fact. A really good article always commands its price, and the low fees hitherto charged at the London in comparison with other leading Medical Schools, has placed it at a distinct disadvantage. If, with its magnificent clinical material, the London Hospital fails to draw an average number of Students, there is something radically wrong in its system of conducting its affairs. So long as it is a

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widely-known fact that the Matron has the power—with the consent of the senior Staff and Committee—to place and remove the Special Nurses without reference to the Resident Medical Officers' opinions and wishes—just so long will young men worthy of the name refrain from placing themselves in the invidious position of being absolute nonentities in its Wards. "Raising the fees" has not prevented Students going to other Hospitals, and Dr. Stephen Mackenzie pays himself and his colleagues no particular compliment by inferring, either that the market value of the tuition at other Schools is higher than at the London Hospital, or that they are asking more for the advantages they offer at the London, than Students consider these are worth.

It seems that the Resident Medical Officers and Nurses in our Chest Hospitals run great risks of contracting phthisis. It is known that the matter expectorated by phthisical patients is infectious; and the investigations of the German Physician, Dr. Cornet, in reference to the part played by the air in the propagation of lung disease, has brought out the following striking fact in connection with Hospital Nurses for this class of disease: "A healthy girl of seventeen, devoting herself to Hospital Nursing, dies on the average twenty-one and a-half years sooner than a girl of the same age moving among the general population. A Hospital Nurse of the age of twenty-five has the same expectation of life as a person of the age of fifty-eight in the general community. The age of thirty-three years in the Hospital is of the same value as the age of sixty-two in common life. The difference between life-value in the Hospital and life-value in the State increases from the age of seventeen to the age of twenty-four, Nurses of the latter age dying twenty-two years sooner than girls of the same age in the outside population. In the fifties it amounts to only six or seven years, while later on it vanishes altogether. From this it would appear that Hospital Nursing should be classed among dangerous occupations."

DR. CULLINGWORTH's excellent "Manual for Monthly Nurses" has been revised by Miss M. A. Atkinson, Matron of the General Lying-In Hospital, Lambeth, and is in its third edition.

MISS SARAH CLAYTON has chosen for her prize, for her Essay in the Twenty-fifth Prize Essay Competition, which had for its subject, "Give a History of the Work and Progress of Nursing during the Present Century," the following books: "The Life of Correggio," "Michael Angelo," "Raphael," "Turner," "Naturalistic Photography," "Quotations." S. G.

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