

vouched for. The present system, if one can be said to exist at all, is inadequate and unsatisfactory. Indeed, it is a well-known fact that some persons who have undertaken the nursing of the sick have obtained employment by means of bogus certificates. Occasionally the incompetence of such impostors leads to their prompt detection, but it is obvious that nothing short of every qualified Nurse being Registered will ensure general confidence. The representations of the Royal British Nurses' Institution, backed up as they are by the Medical Profession, ought to be effective with the Privy Council. Indeed it is reckoned that the Institution already comprises about three thousand Trained Nurses."

MISS ROSE PRICE, R.B.N.A., has been appointed Matron of the G.N.R. Accident Hospital, Swindon, and to judge from the business-like manner in which she presented her application and testimonials to the Board, I am not surprised that she was the candidate elected. Amongst other excellent testimonials, Miss PRICE has had her Registration Certificate reprinted, thus giving a complete *résumé* of her training and professional career. I commend this simple method to other applicants for posts of responsibility. Miss PRICE was trained in the Hull Infirmary, from 1882 to 1885, and has since worked in the Harrogate Hospital, the Bridgewater Infirmary and the Cumberland Infirmary; so that after ten years' experience, she well deserves her preferment.

I AM glad to hear that Miss RATLIFF has been appointed Matron of the West Ham Hospital.

At the annual meeting of St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, Mr. DUNCAN MATHESON complained of the practically stationary character of the annual subscriptions, although 2,000 more patients had been received during the last year. He alluded to the loss sustained by every section of the community by the death of Mr. OLIVER HEYWOOD, the late treasurer, and announced that Sir WILLIAM CUNLIFFE BROOKS, Bart., M.P., had kindly consented to take this post. Mr. HEYWOOD was a munificent supporter of this charity, and has left it a legacy of £2,000. A vote of thanks was passed to the Ladies' Committee and the Ladies' Auxiliary Executive of the Hospital Sunday Fund for the welcome help afforded during the past

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twelve months. I hear that the Nursing Department of this Hospital is in a high state of efficiency, owing to the ability of its admirable Matron, Miss JANET BIRD.

THE *Queen* reports: "The COUNTESS OF ZETLAND, accompanied by Viscountess DOWNE, and attended by Lieutenant-Colonel GARRETT, private secretary, visited on the 13th inst., the Rotunda Hospital, Rutland Square, Dublin, when she was received by the "master," Dr. W. J. SMYLY, and Mrs. SMYLY, a number of the Governors and Medical Officers, and Miss HAMPSON, the Lady Superintendent. The Rotunda is the oldest, largest, and most important Maternity Hospital in Ireland, and is a remarkably handsome building, standing in a conspicuous position at the end of Upper Sackville Street. The decorations of the chapel, and various portions of the interior, are singularly beautiful, having been executed by Italian refugees about a century ago. A number of improvements have been recently carried out; two additional Wards and a new kitchen have been completed, and the Governors contemplate the erection of an auxiliary Hospital in the beautiful grounds by which the existing building is surrounded. Lady ZETLAND made a thorough inspection of the Institution, and complimented the officials upon the marked improvement visible in every department since her last visit.

I REGRET to hear that, having received the *mot d'ordre* from St. Thomas's, Miss HAMPSON has been actively opposing the incorporation of the Royal British Nurses' Association since her arrival in Dublin. One cannot help being amused at the abject terror of officialdom in the abstract, concerning the organisation of Trained Nurses. Let the Certificated Nurse once grasp the fact that she is a *free agent* and that Hospital officials, when ceasing to pay her, have absolutely no authority over her whatever; let her once become accustomed to the idea that, having earned her Certificate of competency, she is *entitled* to think and act for herself, and the organisation of the entire profession of Nursing will be rapidly accomplished. Nurses have been "Marketable commodities" quite long enough. Let them for the future be responsible, self-respecting *human beings*.

THE *Lancet* says: "Professor VIRCHOW, in the Berlin Municipal Council and in the course

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