

WE have received a highly objectionable advertisement, during the past week, from two ladies conducting a Medical and Surgical Home on the south coast, the prospectus of which was sent to us, headed by the following slip in *red ink* :—

“CONFIDENTIAL.

In enclosing our circular, will you allow us to state that on introductions of which you give us notice, we shall be happy to send you a cheque for 10 per cent. commission on the accounts paid to us.”

The letter addressed to us is printed, and is headed “Sir,” which, in our case, was crossed out, and the word “Madam” substituted. Strongly as we object to the system of bribery, we are anxious to know to what kind of “Sir” these circulars are addressed. Is it possible that they are sent to members of the medical profession? We can hardly think it possible.

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WE have received, by the courtesy of Miss LOUISE DANCHE, one of America’s most energetic and able Nursing organisers, the report of the New York City Training School for Nurses, which is under her able superintendence. The report opens with a most satisfactory general Report of the great progress of the school by Miss DANCHE, and the addresses to the Graduating Class of Nurses of 1893, by Dr. EDWARD PECK and Mrs. FREDERICK RHINELANDER JONES, in both of which speeches many true, witty and helpful sayings are to be found. We give the Report of the Rules of the School Registry in full, as all such regulations are of interest during the organization of the Registered Nurses’ Society :—

“On October 1st, 1891, under the direction of the School Registry Committee, Miss Ella Canfield, a graduate of 1889, opened the office of the Registry at 114, West 43d Street. Previous to this date from six hundred physicians, managers of hotels, etc., had been notified that such an office was about to be opened, where reliable graduate Nurses of the school could be obtained at any hour during the day or night.

The following Schedule of prices was formulated, agreed to and adopted by the registry committee—

For nursing ordinary cases, \$21 (£4 4s.) per week or \$3 per day. For nursing obstetrical and contagious cases, \$25 (£5) per week. For nursing male adult patients, \$4 per day (£5 12s. per week).

The following Rules were also adopted :—

RULE 1. The registry agent shall keep a daily list of Nurses in the order in which they request cases, which list shall be open to the inspection of any person making application for a Nurse. The first Nurse on the list shall receive the first case unless the doctor or patient prefers to select some other Nurse on the list.

RULE 2. The commencement and also the termination of every engagement whether obtained privately, or through the registry, must be reported to the agent in writing by the next mail.

RULE 3. An engagement tendered through the registry must be accepted if the case be such as the Nurse is registered for, and the registered price be offered. Illness so sudden as not yet to have been reported to the registry, will be considered the only valid excuse.

RULE 4. Only graduates of the school shall be entitled to become full members of the registry, on the payment of a yearly fee of 10 dollars. It was also agreed that married graduates not occupied in Nursing, or those occupying permanent positions, or any persons interested in the welfare of the registry, might become honorary members on the payment of a yearly fee of 5 dollars.

MISS CHRISTIANA JANE GILLET, M.R.B.N.A., is doing excellent work as Matron of the Children’s Hospital, Brisbane, an account of which has lately appeared in the *Queenslander*. It is always inspiring to hear of good work accomplished under difficult circumstances :—

“With the name *Children’s Hospital*, the reader will doubtless associate a large, elegant, roomy building placed in some charming spot overlooking road, river, and rail, where the keen westerly wind is unable to exercise its ferocious instinct, and where the sun has generous play; around it are clusters of bright flowers, umbrageous trees and drooping tropical foliage, and there are, of course, green swards and grassy knolls where the convalescent children romp and play while they bathe in the healing rays of the sun. As far as regards the Brisbane Children’s Hospital, this is all fond fancy. Perched on a pinnacle at the back of the General Hospital is a large, ill-shapen wooden structure, which apparently has grown without its own consent. It is devoid of beauty or elegance, and from time to time has been so patched up and added to that the original design has been smothered and finally crushed out of sight. The ground on which it is placed is a rocky prominence, on one side naked and precipitous, on the other running down irregularly to the broken land below. Around the building are a few indigenous trees, principally paper-bark gums, many of which are apparently struggling for a precarious, grudgingly granted existence. A few flowers have raised their heads out of the rocky crevices, but they are withering in the cold blast and appealing for more generous soil and a larger measure of sunshine.”

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The wooden box-like structure which is on the summit of the precipice is the Children’s Hospital, the ground on which it is placed is some two acres of sterile land, which a miserly Government reluctantly granted to a few large-hearted ladies who demanded a site whereon to erect a home for the suffering little sick ones of the city. Although the building is a thing of shreds and patches, and the area of land in which it is placed is cramped and confined, yet the prospect from the hill is most attractive. There is a sweep of plain and hill, of pasture land and tree-clad slopes, of clumps of waving palms and gracefully bending bamboos; the song of birds comes floating across from the apple-tree flats and like a sweet strain runs tremulously through the shrill whistling of the westerly wind; white cottages are peeping from out leafy openings; and from the city, the fringe of which is visible, there arises a humming, rustling sound—a sound which, as it comes over with the breeze, tells us that the great competitive battle of life and of living is actively in progress, that the combatants are still killing and wounding each other and breaking hearts and hopes and aspirations in the struggle for wealth and for supremacy!

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What is wanted are ten rich men—those, for instance, who have made money by the unearned increment of city property—to each devote £1,000 to the building fund. There are scores of men in this city who could each write their cheque for £1,000, and hand it to the treasurer of the Hospital, and who by so doing would find themselves vastly richer in spirit and a mere trifle poorer in pocket.

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WE read that in spite of all difficulties :—

“The interior of the Hospital is particularly bright and cheerful. All the white counterpanes are relieved with broad red crosses, the children are clothed in red flannel jackets, the walls are gaily decorated with pictures and mottoes, while on the tables are sprays and bunches of beautiful flowers.”

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