

1875, hospitals for the treatment of infectious diseases are available for all patients in the district whether paupers or ratepayers, or the children of ratepayers. And it is, moreover, the duty of municipal corporations to provide hospitals for the treatment of cases of infectious disease on a scale sufficient for the requirements of the population. The corporations are, however, entitled to recover payment from such patients as are able to pay for their treatment in hospital. and in the case of paupers the guardians are responsible for the cost.

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THE report which has been presented to Parliament by the Board of Superintendence of the Dublin Hospitals for the year ended 31st of March, 1894, is a document which deserves much attention. It is signed by Lord Powerscourt, Sir F. Brady, Lord Ardilaun, Sir George Porter, Dr. S. Gordon, Mr. J. E. Barry, Mr. Joseph Woodlock, Sir Percy Grace, Sir John Banks, Dr. Lambert Ormsby, Mr. C. E. Lambkin, and Mr. Thomas A. Dickson. P.C. These noblemen and gentlemen have inspected nine Hospitals that receive parliamentary grants, buildings, dietaries, furnishing, cleanliness, segregation, and other necessities of the best Hospital accommodation. Their judgment is favourable to the Dublin institutions and to their management. They recommend that a Central Pathological Institute in connection with the Dublin Hospitals should be established. They say that an enormous amount of valuable pathological material which, from its disseminated occurrence, is, at present, only available for teaching purposes to a limited extent, could thus be fully utilised. High-class pathological instruction would be promoted, and students would enjoy an advantage which they cannot at present obtain in Dublin. They suggest further that a bacteriological laboratory would form an indispensable adjunct to the Institute. Examinations of water, milk, and food-stuffs, by bacteriological methods, could be conducted by a skilled bacteriologist. "Such an institution would (they add) serve to supplement the work of Dublin Hospitals in several important particulars, and fulfil many functions that are at present discharged imperfectly, or not at all. It would constitute a most essential adjunct to the existing resources of medical education in this city."

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It is announced that a truly regal memento is about to be created in Russia. In order to commemorate the marriage of his daughter, the Czar has issued a ukase directing the foundation of an educational establishment for women bearing the name of "Xenia Institute." In this ukase his Majesty says: "We have thought it right, in order to mark the day of our beloved daughter's wedding

by a useful work, to found a new educational and training institute for women, in which the daughters of our faithful subjects, who by reason of service to the state or by birth have acquired the status of nobility, but who may not have the necessary means for bringing up their children, may receive a private general education and, under the direction of experienced teachers may obtain such practical knowledge as renders woman useful to her own family and enables the members of her sex who may not possess the happiness of family life to make an honest living in these times of demand for female labour." The palace of the late Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholaievitch, the elder, has been given up for the new institute, and the sum of 400,000 roubles has been assigned for effecting the necessary structural alterations, while 500,000 roubles will be devoted to the creation of a pension fund for the teachers and employés of the institute. A further sum of 125,000 roubles for the maintenance of the establishment will be paid annually from the funds of the Imperial Treasury.

## Matrons in Council.

### WHAT IS A TRAINED NURSE?



MADAM,—I was greatly interested in reading the letter in the "Echoes" a fortnight ago from the Matron of a Special Hospital, as she appears to me to have touched on several most important points in Nurse education, and I feel strongly with her that if the Matron's

Council is to be of use and influence it must be based on the most liberal representation, so that the Matrons and Superintendents of every branch of Nursing may have a voice in its Council, and the benefit of personal intercourse with their colleagues. I was present at the inauguration meeting at St. Bartholomew's, and was glad to hear the names of ladies suggested for the Executive, embracing representations to all the branches, General and Special Hospitals, Poor Law Infirmaries, District and Private Nurses. This I consider a most wise organisation, because no Matron in *one* branch of our work can know all the difficulties of those in the other special lines of the profession, and it is only by co-operation that we can ever hope to solve the problem, "What is a Trained Nurse?" I also agree with Matron of a Special Hospital, that it is likely that co-operative training will in the future produce the most skilled and *thoroughly educated* Nurse; but all special work must be studied after a lengthened period of general training, routine, and *discipline*. Nurses unattached for a sufficiently long time to any one school never understand *discipline*, and many of the faults and failings of the modern Nurse arise entirely from a lack of such training.—Yours, &c.,

"A COUNTRY MATRON."

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