

increase in the expenses of the illness, the segregation of a number of such invalids in one house enables each to be thoroughly well nursed, to have the very best cooking provided, to have ready at hand every necessary appliance, and to obtain all these and other advantages, at a greatly reduced cost. As an instance of this, we may quote the cost of nursing a gentleman who was recently taken ill in a well-known London hotel. He had, of course, to have everything brought to his room, but his Nurses had their meals in the public rooms of the hotel, and their combined hotel bill averaged £23 per week, while the Nurses' fees, the dressings and medicines amounted to £5 more per week, the total expenditure, therefore, being £28 a week. He was then moved into one of the best Nursing Homes in the metropolis, and there received greater advantages and much greater care, attention, and quiet, for an inclusive expense of £9 5s. a week—in other words, just one-third of the previous cost. In another case, the patient was taken ill in lodgings, and here the expenses for the first week, including the fees of his Nurses, amounted to £17, and his expenditure during the subsequent weeks in which he was treated in a well-known Nursing Home averaged rather less than £8 per week. The economy and benefit of treatment in a Nursing Home, so far as the public is concerned, are, indeed, beyond all question.

But there is, however, a very important drawback in the case of many Nursing Homes. It has become fashionable within recent years, for persons who have some connection amongst members of the medical profession, and some small amount of capital, to take a house and term it a Nursing Home, although they have, perhaps, themselves, not the most elementary knowledge of Nursing matters. And, so far as the financial results of the experiment have gone, we understand that some of these ladies have made a comfortable income. Sooner or later, however, medical men discover that such institutions are no more than an ordinary lodging-house wherein their patients are subjected to all the disadvantages of such establishments. Nurses are called in to attend upon the patient, and finding that the head of the house is quite unacquainted with Nursing matters, they usually take the charge and responsibility of the patient into their own hands, and the head of the household becomes a cypher so far as any supervision or control over the Nurses is concerned. This may not matter much if the Nurses employed are of the best class and character, but when, as so often happens, women of little or no training are brought in to take charge of the patients in such a house, the disadvantages, if not the danger, to the patient become very great and

obvious. We would, then, to commence with, advance the proposition that a Nursing Home or Home Hospital should be managed and supervised by a thoroughly-trained Nurse. Under any other circumstances, we contend that the name is misleading, and that it is moreover, nowadays, as much of an anachronism as it would be to term a department of a Hospital, a Nurse Training School, the Matron of which was entirely ignorant of Nursing matters. A Nursing Home implies the presence of a skilled Nursing staff, properly organised and supervised on the lines of a Hospital, and, failing such an organisation, no such establishment is worthy of the name.

We hope therefore for the sake of the public that we shall before long see the process which has already commenced, completely carried out—the extinction of all the lodging-houses managed by unprofessional persons which have assumed the name and appearance of Home Hospitals. In the next place, while there can be no doubt that there is a considerable demand for such institutions, it is equally evident to all who have any knowledge of the subject that this demand has been more than met by the supply in the metropolis and in other large provincial towns. Rarely does a week pass now without our hearing that one, or more, of these so-called Nursing Homes has, after a brief existence, closed its doors; and for the sake of those Nurses who may have been misled by oversanguine descriptions of the financial success of these institutions, and who may be about to invest their savings, perchance, in such a speculation, we will, next week, consider the strictly financial aspects of this matter.

INDUSTRIAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE perceptive faculties, it is freely asserted, are not markedly developed by the training which is ordinarily given in the Industrial Reformatories in the kingdom, and the following instance, which has recently come to our knowledge, throws an amusing side light on the mental results of such education. A boy who had been placed by his reformatory school with a farmer in the country, ran away, and as he had been placed at the school on a magistrate's order, he was arrested and brought before the Court. The kindly Justice of the Peace asked the boy to explain the reason of his conduct, but he maintained a sullen silence. At last, after much persuasion, the following conversation took place:—"You know, my lad, we shall have to punish you if you can give no reason for running away. Why did you do it?" "Well, they send me to the farm, and they said we was to eat whatever died." "Well?" "The old cow died, and we eat it." "Well, go on." "Then the old sheep died, and we eat it." "Yes; go on." "Then the old woman died—" "Well—what then?" "Then I runned away." The result of the industrial education had evidently been to convince this poor boy that farm hands at a pinch were expected to become cannibals!

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)