

rangements. If Addenbrooke's Hospital is not to be left in the rear, it must move in accordance with the spirit of the age. Since January last there have been 212 applications for which there were no vacancies.

They feel the more encouraged to ask for this outlay in consequence of the increased value of the investments. During the last few years consols (in which the property is invested) have risen from 95 to 105. This rise in the value of the stock has added over £5,000 at least to the value of the Hospital property.

The committee think that a portion of this betterment may well be spent in securing a permanent building which under various circumstances will be of great value to the Hospital.

Dr. MacAlister said that they were told that in adopting the scheme for making the training for three years, they would bring about a reduction in the number of applicants: but the fact that since January last, when the new scheme was introduced, they had had 212 applications for which there were no vacancies was a sufficient answer to that question. A friend of his had got out some figures which were extremely instructive in this matter, and he believed they were the only one of the eleven provincial medical schools in the list he had, in which none of the probationers were paid. The list showed the receipts derived from the probationers and the salaries paid to the Nurses, and Addenbrooke's came out the highest of all by a long way in the receipts from probationers, and lowest of all in the salaries and wages paid to Nurses. This showed that their system, carried forward with courage and liberality, had been one of the most successful in all hospitals. The arguments brought before the committee showed that they were justified in this action not only in the greater credit to the hospital and the greater comfort to the Nursing staff, but also by a very considerable pecuniary return. The report was seconded by Dr. Besant and adopted.

Nothing can be more encouraging than the enlightened manner in which the committees and medical staffs of our hospitals are tackling this question of transition of Nursing, from a purely domestic occupation into a recognised profession for educated women, and we are glad to observe, from reports which reach us from all over the country, that these wise and necessary steps of progress have been often inspired by Matrons who are members of the Royal British Nurses' Association. Cambridge, Plymouth, Lincoln, Nottingham, Brighton, York, Bridgwater, Kidderminster, and many of our leading Metropolitan Hospitals, have all within the last few years adopted a three years' term of training, and a thorough system of theoretical and practical instruction for probationers, and we cannot pass over the fact that

the Matrons of these institutions have all—as members of the Royal British Nurses' Association—been inspired with a strong sense of professional duty, nor refrain from stating that it is the further development of this professional responsibility alone which can guide and further the true interests of the Nurses of the future.

SOME correspondence has come under our notice, in which it appears that the Matron of an Infectious Hospital on the South Coast has engaged a wardmaid as *Assistant Matron*. In her letter to this supervisor of saucepans and scullery sinks, she says:—

"Seeing your advertisement in the ——— for a wardmaid's position, and that you have had over two years' experience of such work, I am writing to ask you if you do not think you could undertake Assistant Matron's duties, *much of which is comprised under a wardmaid's work.*" (The italics are ours.) The letter goes on:—

"I have a vacancy at the present time for an Assistant to myself as Nurse Matron at above Institution (a Fever Hospital), at a salary of £25 a year. I do not want a *certificated Nurse*, as the work of nursing is so light, but I want a person who does not mind doing a little wardmaid's work, at the same time attending to the infectious cases under my supervision," &c.

We suspect that the reason this Matron "does not want a certificated Nurse," is that she is herself a thoroughly unqualified person, and she fears that the "supervision" of which she speaks might possibly be on the other side. Her amateur knowledge of professional work is clearly shown by her statement that in fever work "the Nursing is so light." We wonder if diphtheria and scarlet fever are included. And we should also like to know whether the medical staff of, and the subscribers to, this extraordinary Fever Hospital, are aware of the cruelty to the patients, in appointing a disciple of brush, broom and duster, to nurse cases of infection, with all the risks and dangers of the complications so liable to arise from neglect of proper Nursing precautions.

THE delights of a "caravan life" may shortly be opened up to a goodly number of Nurses if the East Lothian system of "Hospitals on wheels" be at all universally adopted. The caravan has four wheels, and can be drawn by two horses; it has an air-space of 1,520 cubic

**NURSES' WATCHES ALTERED** to show SECONDS, from 8s. 6d. This includes new seconds' dial and seconds' hand, and the necessary mechanical alterations. Nurses' Silver Keyless Watches with seconds' hand, £2 ros. **SAMUEL STANLEY, 48, MORTIMER STREET, W.** (Midway between Middlesex Hospital and Cavendish Square.)

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