

THE needs of the Plaistow Maternity Charity have recently been made known in many newspapers. Lady Winchelsea presided at an "At Home" at Plaistow on Saturday, to draw further attention to the good work being done in connection with this Charity. The urgent necessity of providing a new building in place of the present structure received striking illustration by an accident during the afternoon to one of the Nurses, who, whilst descending to the basement, had the misfortune to find an old step in the stairway give way beneath her.

THE *Daily Telegraph* has had its attention called by a Nurse to the great hardship entailed on the sick by the incessant whistling for cabs in various parts of London during the night. The multiplication of street noises is not only a serious matter for those already ill, but has much to answer for in producing many nervous illnesses; among which insomnia takes a leading place.

THE notifications of small-pox at Gloucester is gradually decreasing, and last week there were only seven deaths. At the City Police Court, recently, E. H. Spring, Pastor of the East End Tabernacle, and associated with the promotion of the hydropathic treatment of small-pox, was fined £5 and costs for exposure of himself when suffering from the disease. The defendant had a mild attack, and the dispute was as to whether freedom from infection had been established, much expert evidence being taken. Leave to appeal was given.

UPON the subject of "the inevitable quack," the following extract from a letter from a Nurse at Gloucester is interesting:—

"The work here has suddenly got very slack, only twenty-five cases being notified yesterday; but work the last six weeks has been much hindered by quacks — one, the 'eminent hydropathist,' as he is called by his friends, professes to cure the disease in from two to ten days by stopping the course of the disease, and so the poor, anxious to get back to their work, are induced to submit themselves to his treatment, which, alas! instead of curing them, has in many cases ended in their death. Since the arrival of the quack doctors, although the notifications have been less each week, the deaths have been double that of the six weeks previous to their coming. Our happy family is fast breaking up—two are leaving us this week, and four next. I am very glad I came, though my work has been cut short by my unfortunate accident. I am sure we shall all in the future look back on the time we have spent here with much pleasure, on the good work we have been privileged to assist in, and the kindness of all we have come into contact with. Miss Evans' (the Superintendent) especially has been most kind, having studied us in every way. All speak highly of her as being so exceedingly kind and considerate in doing everything for our good."

At a meeting of the Bridgwater Guardians it was decided to advertise for a trained and certificated nurse for the workhouse at a salary of £25 a year. Mr. Perrett thought "there would be a large number of applications." We are not so sure of this, considering the recent disclosures concerning the management of this Institution. We are glad, however, to observe that the Guardians are becoming alive to their responsibility for the care of the sick.

IN *Biblewomen and Nurses* a pathetic story is told of an old lady who was advised to become an in-patient of a Hospital. She would not hear of the suggestion, and maintained stoutly that "she would rather go to an Infirmary. Her choice was difficult to understand, but after much reluctance and hesitation she confessed that "her nightgowns were too old." She felt she was not smart enough for a Hospital and that there she would not be so well treated as those patients whose nightgowns were trimmed with lace and embroideries. At the Infirmary, she thought, there would be no rivalry as to frills and nightcaps. The District Nurse very kindly procured her two nice nightgowns and nightcaps and she has been sent to the Mildmay Hospital, where we are sure this poor old lady will receive all the care that skill and kindness can give her.

Our attention has been called to some correspondence on "Prejudice in Journalism" which has appeared in Mr. H. C. Burdett's paper, the *Hospital*. Of course it is, as usual, in connection with a personal attack upon ourselves. Personally, we have no objection whatever to providing "copy" for Mr. H. C. Burdett's paper, if its somewhat meagre Nursing Mirror cannot be filled without allusion to us. That Mr. H. C. Burdett's readers have cause of complaint at his constant abuse of us we can well imagine. In this respect, he reminds us of the gentleman whose inability to keep King Charles's head out of his conversation was a characteristic symptom of his mental condition. But it is equally absurd that an official of the Stock Exchange should arrogate to himself the right to dictate to Nurses concerning their professional affairs. He merely raises as broad a smile, at his own expense, as he did when his paper described how a Nurse cleared a tracheotomy tube in a child's throat by "blowing violently down it!" or when it advised Nurses to "pour methylated spirit into their boots!!" and on sundry other occasions.

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