

New York Lying-in Hospital.

THE Lying-in Hospital of the city of New York, which is now in its 97th year, cares for about 2,000 women annually. A large out-door Maternity department is maintained, the women being treated at their own homes. Cases likely to prove complicated, or, from previous history, liable to be dangerous, are always treated in the Hospital. There is a diet kitchen in connection with the Institution, from which food is sent when necessary, not only for the lying-in mother at her home, but for her family too. Coal and clothing are often given, especially when the mother is a wage-earner. This kind of help prevents the necessity of the mother getting up to work too soon after confinement, and thus a great deal of after disease and illness is prevented.

The Eight Hours' Day.

THE decision on the part of the Australian Government to withdraw their subsidy from Hospitals in which the Nurses are expected to work more than 168 hours in every twenty-one days, which amounts to an eight-hour day, has caused much consternation among the governors and managers of these Institutions. A deputation representing the various charitable Institutions in Melbourne recently waited upon the Premier to protest against this decision of the Government. The Premier, recognising that it takes time and machinery to make so drastic an alteration in the Hospitals' system, has promised to give a six months' grace. At the end of this time, unless some convincing arguments are brought forward against the Eight Hours' Bill, the new provision will be enforced. Meanwhile, the Premier has invited the Nurses of Australia to communicate their own view of the subject to him. He wishes to have the measure discussed from the point of view of employer and employed, and it is to be hoped the Nurses will take advantage of this opportunity for self-legislation.

Nurses and Their Uniforms.

A PARAGRAPH has been going the round of the Press in which it is stated that one of our Royal Princesses has expressed herself as desirous of seeing the Nurse's uniform abolished. The principal plea against a distinctive dress is stated to be that "it is this certainly very becoming dress which is the chief inducement to many ladies to take up the calling, or rather, to go through the preliminary probation, for the Hospital authorities soon discover which are the really capable Nurses."

One of the papers commenting on this proposition, says: "If it be carried out, our streets would be robbed of one of their prettiest features, and less romance would be attached to the otherwise gruesome duties of sick-bed attendance."

Another paper is of opinion that even if the charming uniform worn by Nurses proves too powerful an attraction to be resisted by the average woman, that the Hospital authorities do in reality score by such vanity, because it gives them a larger scope for the selection of the fittest!

At this time of year it is often difficult for the versatile journalist to furnish sufficient "copy" for his columns, and we think in this case that imagination—unhampered by facts—has been allowed fair range.

It is a curious fact that in the popular mind the "romance" of Nursing appears to centre in a pretty costume and a charming cap, whereas in reality the only "romance"—as in other callings in life—really consists in the self-sacrifice, devotion to duty, and general unselfishness of the worker. And it only shows how little the lay Press appreciates the life of a Hospital Nurse, when it gravely sets forth that women flock to Hospital wards for the sake of wearing pretty dresses! Surely there is sufficient scope and possibility of beautiful raiment to be found in every day life for even the vainest woman, without the necessity on her part of donning a Hospital uniform which—after all—is only becoming to certain types and kinds of beauty.

Glasgow Samaritan Hospital for Women.

BOTH Nurses and patients of the Glasgow Samaritan Hospital for Women, which was opened on September 9th, are congratulating themselves on the comforts and advantages of the new over the old building, in which work has been carried on for some ten years under many difficulties, so far as accommodation was concerned. The Hospital block consists of two floors, and on each floor is a ward for ten patients, and besides, there are a couple of wards accommodating two patients each; these being intended for serious and operation cases. The administrative block, with Board Room, Matron's, Nurse's and Staff accommodation, is admirably planned. An excellent plan has been adopted whereby, if necessary, the large wards can be divided up and turned into single or isolation rooms. This is a new principle in Hospital building, but no doubt will prove of great service in case of threatened sepsis or an epidemic of any nature.

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