

THE Social Evening of the St. John's House Debating Society was held at 8, Norfolk Street, Strand, on Thursday, May 6th. The nurses' sitting-room seemed transformed into a bower of flowers, and as no other open meeting will be held before the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee the members of the Debating Society took this opportunity of showing their loyalty. A large portrait of the Queen occupied a conspicuous position, and the walls were gay with red, white, and blue, bunting. All the members of the society wore favours of the same colours. An excellent programme of instrumental and vocal music and recitations was gone through, and some amateur acting was much appreciated. Tea and coffee were served at intervals. The last guests left about 10 o'clock, the unanimous opinion being expressed that the evening had been an unqualified success.

LORD ROBERTS, in speaking recently at the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, said that many years before Lady Roberts was able to arrange for hospital nurses for India she had it in her heart to get those nurses. She had often felt for the sick soldiers with none but native attendants, or possibly some of their comrades to look after them. Now, they had a staff of lady nurses who were employed in the chief hospitals. Besides that Lady Roberts had started a home in the hills at Muree Kasanti, with a lady superintendent in charge, where ladies who broke down and required rest after the heat of the plains could be taken care of. Wards were also provided for sick officers, and those wards were always full. He often wondered what would have happened to them if these wards had not been available.

At a meeting of the Belfast Board of Guardians Miss Megahy moved that the Board should advertise for five additional probationers. More nurses were badly needed, as the nursing was chiefly done by paupers, who were only fit for scrubbing the floors. Dr. Bigger had stated that he was obliged to employ pauper women as there were not sufficient nurses to attend to the patients. An amendment was moved that the Board should not advertise for any additional nurses. Miss M'Mullin, superintendent of the hospital, said that she did not employ paupers for regular nursing. When the nurses has too much to do they gave a little assistance, but did no actual nursing. The amendment was adopted by 9 to 3.

It would be interesting to know the number of patients in the hospital, and the number of nurses employed. The statements of Dr. Bigger and of Miss M'Mullin appear quite contradictory.

THE Bishop Auckland District Nursing Association is appealing for contributions to enable it to acquire and furnish a Nurses' Home in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee. The Association can show an excellent record of work. Last year the nurses had 310 cases on the books, and paid 7,921 visits. The special appeal adds, "words fail to tell the amount and nature of the help rendered in these thousands of visits, the promptitude, the cheerful willingness, the ready sympathy shown by the nurses on all occasions, have eased many a weary sufferer and brought comfort to the sick and afflicted." It is to be hoped that the modest sum of £800 which is asked for by the Association may be speedily contributed.

THE Tending Board of Guardians are indignant because Mr. Philip H. Bagenal has reported upon their Institution as follows:—"I have today inspected the Workhouse, and found it clean and in fairly good order. I regret to note that several patients in the sick ward are suffering from bed-sores; this in itself is a grave criticism on the nursing arrangements." One Guardian thought the note "an improper one." "Anyone would suppose that the Inspector discovered the sores himself. As a matter of fact he was simply informed, very properly, by the nurses that such things existed, and it showed the great scrupulous honesty of the nurse that she did so inform him." This may be, but the nurse's reputation for good nursing as well as for scrupulous honesty might have been better established had the necessity for giving this information not arisen.

Another member of the Board considered the report "unfair and unjust," and wanted it "expunged." It was suggested that the matter should be referred to the Local Government Board, and that the Board should move a resolution that it had "great confidence in the management of the Infirmary, and that this is an unwarrantable interference with the House Committee and the staff." Another member of the Board observed, "We cannot say that he did not find them with bed-sores." Under these circumstances, we are afraid that the Guardians would do well to remember that "the less said the soonest mended."

AN account was recently given in a contemporary of an interview with a former Sister of Queen Victoria's Ward at the London Hospital, in which this lady expresses herself strongly upon the "cruel injustice" inflicted upon nurses, by Mr. Hall Caine, in giving the public such specimens of the class as he has done in the pages of the *Windsor Magazine*.

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