

She also points out the absurdity of some of the scenes depicted by Mr. Hall Caine, notably that of the ball given at St. Barnabas' Hospital, when four hundred couples danced in the operating theatre! Next week Mr. Hall Caine will reply to his critics. We doubt much whether he will be able to justify himself in the opinion of nurses, who have, as a body, been cruelly wronged by the most unfair picture, drawn by him, of the members of a hard working and honourable profession.

A CORRESPONDENT writing to the *Cape Times* considers that the conditions under which nurses work in Cape Town should be improved, and asks the public to demand for them (1) Shorter hours per day, and longer and more frequent holidays. (2) Lighter duties and rough labour to perform the rougher duties. (3) Better accommodation, and better food, to maintain better health. The letter concludes thus:—

"It is unjust and hard that those whose lives are devoted to improving or restoring the health of others should have to work under conditions that tend to undermine their own, and that give them no opportunity of recreation, or cultivating even their minds, and it is to be hoped that this reproach will soon be possible to us no longer as a community."

THE annual general meeting of the Ceylon Nurses' Association was recently held at the Adam's Peak Hotel. The chairman stated that the increase of work had necessitated the employment of another nurse. A somewhat lively discussion ensued when the hon. secretary brought forward a resolution proposing that "the charge for board, lodging, and nursing, at the home, be fifty rupees a week." One member of the committee observed that this was less than an hotel would charge, he thought it could not pay, and that the items should be more carefully gone into. Another gentleman said he would like to be taken on as a patient at once.

It appears to us that the charge is extremely small. The market value of the rupee is at present 1s. 3d., but, allowing that in Ceylon it may be worth 2s., this would mean that patients are boarded, lodged, and nursed for £5 a week. If a nursing home is to be efficiently managed, with regard to the comfort and well-being of patients, it must be conducted upon a liberal scale, and it appears to us that £5 a week must necessarily be absorbed in the actual expenses connected with the patient, and that no margin is left for the payment of the nurse's fees and board. The chairman ultimately announced that the hon. secretary was prepared to alter the charge from Rs.50 to Rs.60, and the resolution was then carried.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



LADY FITZGERALD is appealing in the Irish press for the Queen's Commemoration Fund for Providing Jubilee Nurses for the Irish Poor. The central fund has already collected £14,000, and it is hoped that with the help of local contributions many remote districts, which would be unable to defray the entire cost of a nurse, may thus be provided with one.

It is proposed, in commemoration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee to enlarge the Nottingham General Hospital at a cost of £50,000. The need for increased accommodation is urgent, and the high standard of the work of this institution is well known. It is to be hoped, therefore, that all the money needed will have been obtained before the day of commemoration.

An appeal has been made for funds to complete the Stockport Infirmary by adding a North Wing, in commemoration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. As the management of this Hospital is held in such high esteem by the inhabitants, the Committee are hopeful that there will be no difficulty in raising the £6,000 required. The first List has just been published, showing donations to the amount of £3,275.

Dr. Forrest-Browne, Bishop of Stepney, has kindly consented to preside at the annual meeting of the Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis, Regent's Park, which will be held at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, May 19th, at the hospital. His lordship will be supported by Mr. T. Bryant, F.R.C.S., consulting surgeon to the hospital, and others.

The Annual Court of the Governors of the Evelina Hospital was recently held at this hospital. It was reported that during the past year considerable alterations and improvements had been made, and the much-needed extension of the building had begun. The whole hospital had also been thoroughly renovated, at the suggestion of the President, Baron Ferdinand Rothschild, who had placed a sum of £10,000 at the disposal of the Committee.

The Staffordshire General Infirmary has been reconstructed at a cost of about £20,000. There are four large wards in the new building, facing east and west, and containing fourteen beds each, a children's ward of twelve beds, six isolation wards, and two day-rooms. The total number of beds is eighty. There is a new operating theatre, out-patient department, and mortuary. The central block contains the administrative offices, and nurses' and servants' quarters. Every possible care has been taken to put the patients under the most favourable conditions afforded by modern sanitary appliances.

The Dean of Winchester presided recently at the fourth annual meeting of the Church Society for the Promotion of Kindness to Animals, held by permission

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