

mencement of her Long Reign, she looks forward with confidence to this grand work proving throughout years to come a source of true relief to the varied forms of human suffering and to the help of those whose career of honourable labour has been stayed by accident or by sickness. I thank you most heartily for the cordial welcome which you have granted to me and have extended to my husband and my daughter, and I will not fail to convey to Her Majesty, who has charged me to say that she retains the most happy remembrance of her last visit to your city, the expression of your affectionate attachment to her person and to the members of her family.

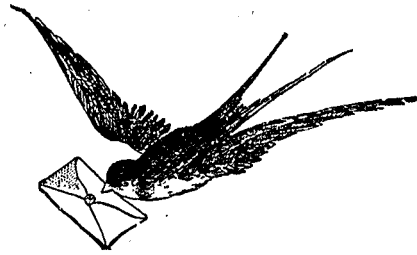
The Governing Board of Mercer's Hospital, Dublin, meet this week to appoint a new medical staff, and the *Freeman's Journal* remarks very justly:— "It is unnecessary now to enter into any of the causes which have led to the present highly unsatisfactory state of things which exists there, or to the circumstances which led the Governors to take what some might consider a high-handed course in first calling on the old staff to resign, and subsequently dismissing them. It is sufficient that the prestige and usefulness of this institution as a public charity and as a teaching institution, are at present at, if not considerably below, low-water mark. In such a state of things no doubt the Governors felt that they were bound to take strong measures to bring about urgent reforms, and in this view many friends and supporters of the hospital concurred.

Amongst the candidates who have sent in applications we understand there are three Roman Catholics, well qualified and of high standing in their profession. The Fellowship of the College of Surgeons is the recognised surgical qualification, and is possessed practically by every hospital surgeon in Dublin. It is possessed by all the Roman Catholic candidates. Not by any means are their rivals similarly qualified. The primary object of the majority of the Governors will be, we have no doubt, to appoint the best and most experienced from amongst the candidates. We believe that the best interests of the hospital will be served by preventing the imputation of intolerance being laid against the Governors. Religious exclusion will not tend to restore to Mercer's Hospital the public confidence and pecuniary support which it at present so much requires. The Roman Catholic candidates are not inferior either in qualification, experience, or in any other respect to the others. Surely one at least of the Roman Catholic candidates should be chosen. The change, we believe, would promote the best interests of the hospital. Most of the patients who are treated in the hospital are Roman Catholics, and a liberal grant is made to its funds annually by the Corporation. Under these circumstances it will be difficult to defend the appointment of an exclusively Protestant staff when Roman Catholic candidates are to be found with at least equal qualifications."

The Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund has during the past week received several handsome donations and subscriptions.

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Fine, Rich, and Delicious.



### Letter from Holland.

IN the midst of a picturesque woodland, surrounded by fragrant, health-giving firs, lies Heideheuvel (Heath-hill) a home for convalescents, founded by the Association of "The White Cross." In the neat and cosy garden-pavilion, tastefully decorated for this occasion by kind hands, with greenery and flowers, the fourth annual general meeting of the Dutch Association for Treatment of the Sick, was held on the 20th of June, at 1.30 p.m. Dr. J. Kniper, the Medical Superintendent of the Wilhelmina Hospital at Amsterdam, presided at the Conference. In his opening speech, he spoke a word of hearty welcome to all those present, and brought to the remembrance of his hearers the happy fact that sick nursing is gaining more and more, from an appreciative public, the interest and sympathy which it so highly deserves, and which nurses so urgently need in order to enable them to place their calling upon a professional basis.

Any endeavour to raise the standard of nursing must of necessity include the organisation of nurses, and the provision for those who have been incapacitated in the discharge of their duty. By several corporations measures are taken and thought of, in order to provide for those nurses who are compelled to give up their work, either by age or by sickness and ill-health. So the Board of Guardians of the two city hospitals of Amsterdam have done a noble deed in creating the Johanna Paulina Reynvaan Fund, in honour of the former matron of the Wilhelmina Hospital, who has, with indefatigable zeal and care, reorganised the whole nursing system in the above-mentioned institutions. The Association of the White Cross is preparing a revision of its statutes concerning the pensioning of its nurses, and most recently a committee has been formed at Alkmaar with the view of accomplishing the foundation of a general pension fund for nurses. The young Wilhelmina Association, still in its infancy, is pleading on behalf of the male and female nurses in our lunatic asylums a more sufficient course of training; financial aid in cases of sickness and invalidity; and an improvement of their condition in general. Those are the principal objects of the Association that has named itself after our young Queen. It needs no special assurance that the Dutch Bond for Sick Nursing, true to its leading principle, gratefully sympathises with all these schemes, and will never fail to extend a helping hand to all efforts for the good of nurses.

The Chairman, after having finished his opening speech, called upon the Secretary-Treasurer, Jönkvrouw J. De Bosch Kemper, to read to the assembly her annual report. This lady announced that the Bond has paid the expenses of three nurses, who had spent some time in the country to restore their

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