

TWENTY-FIVE female attendants from the Richmond Asylum, Dublin, have recently presented themselves for the examination of the Medico-Psychological Society. Sixteen of these succeeded in obtaining the certificate of this body, and the examiners expressed special commendation of the excellent papers written by Nurses Mary Daniels and Kate Byrne.

THE perennial subject of pauper nursing is being discussed in the Irish press, and in a letter addressed to the *Dublin Express* Dr. Joseph Smyth gives some gruesome facts with regard to the manners and customs of pauper nurses. We are told that these harpies sell the hospital food, as well as their own to the patients, that if they do not receive presents of money they become surly and dogged. One "hard-working and respectable girl" asserts that she never saw the patients washed except when they were "going to get the priest." She herself never had her face washed or her hair combed for three weeks. She further states: "One night I heard Mrs.— in the ward above me moaning and crying out, "I'm dying, I'm dying, get me the priest." I heard the nurse shouting back, "Dying! The devil die along with you, and let us go asleep; we're on our feet all day, and we don't want to be kept awake all night." The crying soon ceased. In the morning Mrs.— was found dead in bed.

Other stories are told of a like nature, indeed, the brutality of these pauper nurses almost exceeds belief. The matron of an Irish Union testifies that she has known the patients beg stimulants from the doctor for the sole purpose of giving them to the pauper nurses to bribe them to be good to them. That she knows for a fact that the greater part of the "extras" ordered by the doctor the patients never get, but that they always say they get them, fearing they will suffer if they speak the truth. She tells of a bed-ridden woman falling out of bed, and left all night lying on the floor, and other stories of a like nature.

From statistics it appears that the pauper nurses are mostly women with illegitimate children, and on the male side aged and infirm men, and that they are damaged "mentally, morally, physically."

How long is this condition of things to continue? It is a condition about which there can be but one opinion, and that is that it is imperative that immediate steps should be taken to deliver the sick from the hands, we cannot say the care, of pauper nurses.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE PRINCE OF WALES was, last Tuesday, at Marlborough House, admitted to the Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of London, to which he was recently elected.

The Princess Louise, on Tuesday last, opened the Convalescent Home which Mr. Passmore Edwards has erected at Cranbrook, Kent, at a cost of £3,000. The Princess was escorted from Staplehurst Station to the Home by the West Kent Yeomanry.

Her Royal Highness Princess Christian last week laid the foundation-stone of a new cancer wing at the Middlesex Hospital. Princess Christian was accompanied by Princess Aribert of Anhalt, and Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, and was received by the chairman (Mr. R. Thompson) and the Governors. The religious service, approved by the Bishop of London for the laying of a foundation-stone, was recited. The Princess was then presented with a trowel by Mr. Young, the architect, and proceeded to perform the ceremony.

On Friday afternoon Princess Christian paid a visit to the local cottage hospital, at Norwood, and received purses in aid of the hospital; £3,000 have been collected, including £1,000 given anonymously. One of the beds in the hospital is endowed in memory of the Emperor Frederick. The Empress Frederick takes great interest in the Institution. Princess Christian expressed her entire satisfaction with all the arrangements of the hospital.

At the monthly meeting of the Salford Royal Hospital, the chairman reported that the late Mr. Samuel Buckley had bequeathed a legacy of £250 to the hospital free of duty. The death was also reported of Mr. Thomas Hornby Birley, an old and valued friend of the Institution. This gentleman, who was a vice-president of the hospital, established a kitchen at his own expense for dispensing well-cooked rations to convalescent patients, the selection of the recipients of this charity being left in the hands of the medical officers of the hospital.

It is proposed to build a hospital of which the staff shall be thorough opponents of vivisection. It is stated that the idea has been received with great favour by anti-vivisectionists in all parts of the country. Some £500 has already been received, and an Eastbourne lady has offered a donation of £50, if nine others will follow her example, to found the hospital as a memorial of the Queen's long reign. It is not proposed to open a hospital until a sufficient endowment fund has been secured.

At the Quarterly Court of the Governors of Addenbroke's Hospital, Cambridge, Mrs. Adams, whose munificence to the hospital is well known, was appointed a life governor of that Institution.

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