

The foundation stone of the new workhouse hospital at Skircoat, Halifax, is to be laid shortly. It is estimated that the building when completed will cost about £129,000, but for the present it is only proposed to carry out a portion of the scheme costing about £96,000. This will provide accommodation for 394 beds. The hospital is being built on the pavilion principle.

The Glasgow District Lunacy Board, recognizing that the welfare and recovery of patients depends in a great measure upon the efficiency of the nursing staff, have decided to erect a nurses' home at their new asylum and hospital at Gartloch. It is estimated that the home will cost about £6000, or £7000. It will be the first of the kind in Scotland in connection with an asylum.

The public and the press are alike, we imagine, tired of the unseemly wrangling which has for some time been going on between the governors of Mercer's Hospital, Dublin, and the ejected staff. The matter is one which we should have thought it unnecessary to notice, but that of late the interests of the patients have become involved in the dispute, and there can, we think, be no two opinions on the point that, however matters are finally settled, the patients at all events should be left out of the struggle. It will be remembered that the Board of Governors of Mercer's Hospital dismissed, amongst others, Mr. O'Grady, from the position which he had held for many years as surgeon to the hospital. We are not in a position to pass judgment upon the merits and demerits of the case. Right may lie with the Board or with Mr. O'Grady, and the matter, we believe, is not finally settled. The Board, however, though having dismissed Mr. O'Grady from his position as surgeon, still retained him as a governor of the institution, and it is this fact which has led to the present trouble. As a governor he had the right of admission to the hospital and hospital wards, and it seems that he used this right to continue, in defiance of the Board, his visits to some at least of his old patients. We imagine that the General Medical Council could most properly lay down the law as to the etiquette of this proceeding, but we must say that it appears to us as wanting both in dignity and good taste. But the steps taken by the governors to get rid of Mr. O'Grady in his capacity as surgeon are, if they are as reported, without parallel in hospital annals. It is reported that Mr. O'Grady was informed by one of his patients—Patrick Bradshaw, who is suffering from heart and lung disease—that he had received no food of any description since the previous day. An old woman, named Pollock, who is suffering from cancer, and is about seventy years of age, and who had been a nurse in the hospital for upwards of fifteen years, also made a similar complaint. Mr. O'Grady procured food, which he gave to both patients.

The following is the order made by the House Committee:—

"By order of the House Committee, patients Pollock and Bradshaw are discharged from the hospital from this date [that is, August 10th], and patients Byrne and Logan are discharged from Friday next, from which date they are not to be treated as patients in any respect."

Byrne and Logan are also patients who had been under the care of Mr. O'Grady.

It is, of course, alleged that the patients were dis-

charged and refused to leave, and that the only course open to the governors was adopted; at the same time it appears most singular that it should be necessary to remove, by strong measures, four patients, all being, moreover, under the care of the same surgeon, and that surgeon at loggerheads with the governors. If it should eventually be proved that the governors are allowing their difference with Mr. O'Grady to influence them in their treatment of these patients, we are of opinion that such conduct cannot be too severely condemned. It is high time that the undignified and unedifying dispute should cease.

It is interesting to observe that an expedition, supported by Belgian national subscription, has been fitted out, and lately sailed from Antwerp for the Antarctic regions, in search of the South Pole. The vessel—the *Belgica*—was fully equipped with the latest scientific instruments, and abundant supplies of preserved meats and vegetables, Liebig Company's Extract being taken in very large quantities. The expedition will not return to Europe until 1899.

A generous offer has been made by a number of merchant princes in Moscow to endow an infirmary for epileptics and the weak-minded of both sexes, to commemorate the International Medical Congress recently held in that city.

We regret to observe that cholera has broken out amongst the troops in India, in the Northamptonshire regiment.

THE foundation stone of the Bradford Infirmary was laid on Monday last by the Duke of Devonshire, when his Grace announced that the Queen had graciously given permission for the word "Royal" to be used in connection with the title of the Bradford Infirmary, and the word "Victoria" in connection with the new Nurses' Home.

It is reported that the plague is increasing at Poona, and is causing much anxiety. At the Kirkee cantonments on August 24th there were twenty-six cases and twenty deaths. The health of Bombay has improved, but cases of plague still occur; the daily mortality from this cause is still about three or four.

It is stated that a vacancy for a surgeon recently occurred in the obstetric department of the Women's Hospital, Melbourne. There were four candidates for the post—three men and one woman. The latter possessed the very highest qualifications, and had acted for a year as assistant surgeon at the Melbourne Hospital. The appointment was made by the committee of the Women's Hospital, consisting almost entirely of ladies, and they promptly rejected the lady, and appointed one of the male candidates. When will women learn to appreciate one another?

Zanzibar has been suffering from an epidemic of small-pox, and many deaths have occurred, including those of two European members of the staff of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)