

Committee—which should disqualify them for the membership of a professional association of nurses.

MR. FARDON having demanded proofs of irreproachable "moral character" from all future matrons who are to be admitted members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, will do well to take the initiative in removing from the roll those persons whose names at present disgrace it. This duty he has shirked so far.

THE London School Board Nurses' Society should benefit largely—as it is to receive the profits of the Hackney High School Girls' Physical Culture Demonstration at the Queen's Hall on Saturday. The aim of the new society is to supply Visiting Nurses to the Elementary Schools in the poor districts, and with the innumerable little ailments from which the poor little tots suffer, a nurse can be kept busy for several hours a day—inflamed eyes, sore heels, bruises and cuts, often develop bad symptoms if not well cleansed, and it is of the utmost importance that rashes should be diagnosed in early stage, or many serious illnesses result. The London School Nurses' Society, whose chairman is the Hon. Lyulph Stanley, proposes to systematise and extend this excellent, practical preventive work.

THE porter at Guy's Hospital, who got on to a parapet to secure a patient who escaped from a ward, certainly merits the opinion expressed by a jurymen that he "acted with great courage." At the inquest which took place at the Coroner's Court, Guy's Hospital, last week, the porter, Edward Webb, gave evidence that he was in the hospital grounds when he saw the deceased get out of the window of Phillip Ward and drop on to the parapet below, a distance of six or eight feet. The man wore only a shirt, and had a blanket round him, and began running along the parapet. The porter raised the alarm, and by means of a ladder got on to the parapet face to face with the deceased. He got behind him and clutched his shirt. Then a struggle ensued on the narrow parapet, and the situation was critical when another porter arrived on the scene. Still the patient struggled and all three fell, and rolled to the edge of the parapet when suddenly the sick man collapsed. He was then got down to the grounds, and back to the ward, where he died about five minutes afterwards.

The House Physician gave evidence that the deceased man was suffering from double pneumonia, but did not indicate symptoms of immediate insanity. The cause of death was cardiac failure due to the exertion. The inevitable question presents itself—where were the nursing staff when the patient escaped? The jury, we presume satisfied themselves on this point. It would seem

as if the case were one in which the services of a male nurse would have been eminently useful.

THE wisest conclusion lately come to by the Committee of the Hospital Saturday Fund is to do away with street collections. This form of touting for money has nothing to recommend it, and has in the past been the occasion of much jobbery.

WE regret to see, therefore, that the Hon. Secretaries of the Hospital Street Collections, in Liverpool, advocate the sale of "button-holes" by their lady collectors. In a letter to the *Liverpool Courier*, these ladies write: "The ladies engaged in this hospital street collection last year found that flowers made up into button-holes added considerably to the amount collected. There was, indeed, such a demand for flowers that they had not sufficient, and could have disposed of four times the quantity of button-holes they had at their command. There are very many gentlemen and others who have immense quantities of hot-house or other flowers suitable for the purpose mentioned, who, if they knew of the requirement, would gladly increase the supply." This "flower girl" business appears to us most undignified and undesirable, and we hope that Liverpool will see fit to follow the example of the London Hospital Saturday Fund, and discourage, in the future, this form of begging.

No nurses see more of the terrible results of drink than those working in the receiving rooms of our hospitals, where persons in all stages of alcoholism attend sooner or later, so that a certain amount of courage and good sense is required in sisters and nurses working in this department. Those of us who know the type of person usually brought into the surgery in the night season were therefore not at all surprised to read of the attack made lately on the Night Superintendent at the General Hospital, Birmingham.

At the Birmingham Police Court, Annie Bridges, a lodging-house keeper, of Duddleston Mill-road, was sent to gaol for two months for assaulting Miss Margaret Elwin Sparshott, night superintendent at the General Hospital. The prisoner, a powerfully-built woman, went to the institution at four o'clock in the morning in an intoxicated condition. She was very noisy, and created a disturbance. There was apparently nothing the matter with her beyond the effects of the drink, and she was told to go away. She refused to comply, and the nurse in charge of the surgery sent for the prosecutrix, whereupon the prisoner turned on her, struck her, and scratched her face. Mr. Howard Collins,

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