

A VERY strong letter, dated from the Royal Institution, from an anonymous correspondent of the *Daily Mail*, has appeared in that journal on the subject of Private Asylums. Amongst other things, the writer says, "An effort should be made to get a better class of attendants who are trained in sick nursing, and whose characters will bear the same investigation as the ordinary domestic. Few are aware how grave are the scandals, and how brutal the treatment which exist in these places, which, no doubt, are not openly encouraged by those in authority, but are well-known by them to occur. You will be doing great good if, through your influence, you are able to procure the abolition of these places in England." The accuracy of this letter has been challenged. Doubtless the writer is narrating accurately his own experience, but we are certainly of opinion that if he is acquainted with institutions which are a public danger he should name them, for to class good and bad in the same category is calculated to injure unjustly well-conducted institutions.

MR. R. D. YELVERTON writes in a letter addressed to the *Daily Chronicle*, from 3, Pump Court, Temple:—

"It is an open secret—known in professional circles, but ignored, if possible—that there are fashionable places in London, "Nursing Homes" ostensibly, under the charge of a medical man, where ladies are received when pregnant, although that is not admitted, and where curious practices prevail."

That Superintendents of Nursing Homes are sometimes asked to admit cases requiring "curious" treatment, we are able, from personal experience, to testify. That Homes exist for other purposes than nursing we are also aware. But that "Nursing Homes" are maintained under the care of a medical man, "where ladies are received when pregnant," and "where curious practices prevail," is a statement which we commend to the attention of the General Medical Council.

SIR HENRY BURDETT is the chairman of the Welsbach Incandescent Light Co., and we observe that it is being puffed in his paper, the *Hospital*. It may interest nurses to read the remarks on Welsbachs in the *Daily Mail*, whose financial opinion is sound. "Welsbach issues look a very bad market. There has been a split in the camp, and some underwriters' shares have been sold. It is about time that the directors set the minds of their shareholders at rest by making some statement about Sunlight Incandescent claims. It is the custom to pooh-pooh them; but they may have a solid basis; and, anyhow, it is not the right thing to keep the most interested persons in the dark."

OWING to ill-health, Miss Jennings, Superintendent at the Torquay Nurse Institution, has resigned her position, and, as a token of esteem

and regard, the committee have presented her with a handsome solid silver afternoon tea service. The gift was handed to Miss Jennings by the Dowager Lady Haldon, who expressed regret at her departure and a hope that she would speedily be restored to good health. The nursing staff have presented Miss Jennings with a gold bracelet.

THE Irish Workhouse Reform Association has issued a leaflet embodying various suggestions for the working of the new system necessitated by the fact that the sealed order of the Local Government Board now forbids nursing by paupers. One of these rules is suggestive of the present condition. "A night nurse who only pays occasional visits to the wards, and spends the interval in an easy chair in her room, even though that room is provided with bells, which the patient when in distress may ring, is not nursing." We hope the Irish Workhouse Reform Association will accomplish in the future as much good work as it has done in the past. There seems every prospect of it.

WE notice that the Press has on more than one occasion called attention to the way in which the nurses who were engaged by the British and Indian Governments to nurse the plague patients in India, have been obliged to defray out of a salary, which certainly was not sufficient to cover them, expenses which they ought not to have been asked to meet. The nurses were engaged at a reasonable, though by no means a generous salary, with free quarters in addition. Sometimes the contract was fulfilled to the letter, but in many places—at Surat, for example—the "free quarters" consisted of a large gallery. There was no furniture or bed linen, no curtains, crockery or attendance. The nurses had to provide all these things out of their small salaries. The nurses do not complain, but they do say that under these conditions it was not possible to live on the salaries offered, or to perform their work in the best way. Such a state of things is a reproach to a government which has sent out English nurses to work necessarily in discomfort, with the risk of contracting a terrible disease, and the possibility, not very remote, as the event has unhappily proved, of dying from it.

ONE of the most interesting papers read before several hundred nurses at the Health Exposition in New York was entitled "Nursing in Japan," by Miss Helen Fraser.

AMONG other things the speaker said that trained nursing has only recently been taught in Japan, having been begun in 1882. The first training school was started in 1886, in Okayama, by Dr. John Berry, an American physician. At first it had only four pupils, but several other schools

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)