

board. However, this scheme fell through and the position remains as we have stated above.

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THE prevalence of leprosy in Cape Colony seems to be of serious dimensions. Provision has been made for the reception of lepers, as is fairly well known, in the Asylum on Robben Island, which is about an hour's sail from Cape Town, and according to the last figures obtainable there were no less than four hundred and fifty lepers in this Asylum. But this is by no means the sum total of lepers in the Colony, for not unnaturally these afflicted people frequently shrink from removal to the island, and disappear. One medical man states, "I have visited eight supposed lepers, seven of whom had the disease. There are also three or four others who have been signed up by myself and my predecessors, making about a dozen in all. These are waiting to be removed to Robben Island, but in all probability they will not be found when wanted. It seems that the process of removing these people is unnecessarily tedious."

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ANOTHER medical man speaks of having examined seventy-seven lepers, some of them in a very bad state indeed, and he expressed the hope that they would soon be removed. It is easy to understand what centres of infection these poor creatures become, and in the interest of humanity there is no doubt that they should be conveyed to Robben Island as soon as possible, and until this is done they should be isolated and kept under observation, so that their disappearance, and consequent infection of their neighbours, may be rendered an impossibility.

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AT present the terrible future before a leper patient is increasing illness of the most loathsome description, until merciful death comes to relieve him of the weariness of the flesh. A ray of hope has, however, lately appeared in the encouraging results which have been obtained in British Columbia from the serum treatment of this terrible disease, and it is to be hoped that a thorough trial will be made of this method of treatment wherever lepers are found.

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FROM time to time there is a demand for nurses for the wards of the Leper Asylum on Robben Island. The work is necessarily of a most sad, and in many cases, repulsive description, the nurses must perforce lead a most isolated life, and their work is not wholly free from the risk of contracting this most dreaded disease. All the same, wherever suffering which can be relieved by skilled nursing is to be found we do not doubt that women will be found ready to undertake the work.

The Hospital World.

CHELSEA HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN.

IN spite of the uncompromisingly dull day the Chelsea Hospital for Women looked its brightest on Friday the 20th inst., when the Duchess of Albany paid it a visit of inspection, and also opened the new Nurses' Home in Neville Street.

Her Royal Highness first visited the Home and then proceeded to the Hospital, where she was received by the Vice-chairman, Treasurer, and other officials. There were also present in the Board Room Lady Florence Pelham-Clinton, Lady Winifreda Biddulph, Lady Colville, the Countess of Iddesleigh, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Palmer.

In the absence of the Chairman, Lord Glenesk, in the south of France, Mr. Dyer Edwards read an address of welcome, and reminded Her Royal Highness that the foundation stone of the Hospital was laid in 1880 by the Princess of Wales, and in 1883 the building was opened by the Duchess herself, who, on that occasion, was accompanied by her lamented husband, the Duke of Albany. Since then the Hospital had passed through a time of stress and storm, but it had weathered the storm and come out into the sunshine, and its popularity was now greater than ever. The cases admitted seemed ever to increase in severity, and the mortality was only $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

It was realized at the present time that if nurses were to perform adequately the heavy work which devolved upon them they must be considerably treated, and the need of accommodation for them was obvious. To obtain this it was necessary either to enlarge the Hospital or to find a Home elsewhere, and eventually the Committee purchased a house, the lease of which had cost £1,600, and the furnishing £400.

Another imperative necessity was the enlargement of the operating theatre in order to keep pace with the exigencies of medical and surgical science. When this was accomplished, it would be one of the best operating rooms in the metropolis. It was a noteworthy fact that the medical world came there in great numbers to see the operations which took place, and at present the arrangements for them were inadequate, but in enlarging the theatre this would be taken in consideration.

Another need was that of supplying electric light all over the building. At present they only had it in the operating room, the out-patient department, and the consulting rooms; but in order to carry out this improvement it would be necessary to close the building for several months.

Mr. Dyer Edwards then appealed for an additional £1,500 or £2,000, in order to carry

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)