

institutions we would urge all nurses who come to London, to join only Co-operative Societies of repute, or institutions where the profits are divided amongst them after expenses are paid. Otherwise they may find themselves bound by agreement to proprietors of nurse-sweating homes, from which they can only escape by the payment of a substantial sum in hard cash.

#### A GRUESOME CHARGE.

THE *Sun*, in a recent issue, has devoted a column of its space to an article on the "disgraceful traffic in human bones," which it asserts "is systematically carried on at many London Hospitals." We cannot believe that the horrors of which our contemporary gives a graphic account, are perpetrated in more than one hospital, and we think that the *Sun* would do well to name the Hospital—which, by the way, is a medical school; and, therefore, the issue is narrowed down to twelve institutions—which allows such abuses to be perpetrated. A correspondent of the *Sun*, in company with a medical student, recently paid a visit to the dissecting room of a "well-known medical school." After describing what he saw, he adds: "On every table were odd bones and pieces of flesh, parts of skulls, brains, etc.; and at this moment the attendant's assistant entered with a short rake and bucket, and commenced to gather up all the odds and ends—to burn."

The correspondent then visited the vaults, where were a dozen or so large tanks, and the lid of one being lifted six or eight bodies were disclosed, and three others were found to contain "subjects of both sexes, more or less complete," the bodies being obtained from various workhouses at a minimum charge of £2. But the most horrible part of the visit was yet to come. Crossing the quadrangle they met a cadaverous individual, and the medical student promptly informed him that his friend wanted to buy a skull. They went into a neighbouring "pub" to talk the matter over when the *Sun* representative was enlightened as to the means of obtaining such commodities.

"I'm afraid," said this worthy, "I haven't one I can let him have yet, as the professor has been round the tanks this morning, and he knows how many bodies there are; but, if the gentlemen doesn't want it for a week or two, I'll go down to the workhouse and see the porter. I daresay I shall be able to manage it all

right." The *Sun* man learnt further that "any part" could be obtained by an outsider by payment, if not at the medical school, at any rate at the workhouse, there being plenty of time, even if a pauper had friends to bury him, for John to remove a head or a "part" between the interval of the friends viewing the body and the "screwing down." The *Sun* also discovered that every body which is sent for dissection is registered, and after three or six months is supposed to be buried. But in ninety nine cases out of a hundred a coffin contains portions of perhaps a dozen different people. After men have dissected an arm or a leg, said the student, the bones, when macerated and bleached possess a market value, a fact of which John is well aware, so that in a little tank of his own in the floor of his room he generally has a couple of dozen or so of limb bones undergoing maceration, while in a room upstairs another lot are being bleached with lime.

It is scandals such as these which cause widespread distrust on the part of the supporters and patients of hospitals. We hope our contemporary will give publicity to the name of the hospital where they are countenanced so that well-managed institutions may not suffer by the alienation of public support.

#### RATIONAL DRESS.

LADY HARBERTON'S action against Mrs. Spragues, of the Hautboy Hotel, Ockham, has drawn public attention to the insults to which ladies who sensibly adopt bloomers as a bicycling costume are subjected from narrow-minded and ignorant hotel keepers. Lady Harberton has performed an act of public service in bringing this question into court. We cannot, however, congratulate the Counsel for the defence upon the way in which he conducted his cross-examination. The effect of the action, we do not doubt, will be to create much popular sympathy with those ladies who adopt bloomers as a cycling costume, and to lead to the boycotting, on the part of cyclists, of any hotels where ladies so clad are not properly and courteously treated.

There is no doubt that bloomers are the safest, and, therefore, the most appropriate costume for lady cyclists, and there is nothing more unsuitable in such a dress for a woman than for a man. Those who understand the art of dressing well, know that the dress must be suited for the occasion, and bloomers are essentially a suitable cycling costume.

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