

shame, and a matter which certainly ought to be brought before the Home Authorities, and it will not be my fault if it is not brought before the House of Commons next session."

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THIS letter has aroused others, and an Indian correspondent, writing under the name of "Someg," appears to think that this sum seems a fortune compared with the ordinary pay of the nurses in the Bombay hospitals.

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MR. F. A. REDDIE, Hon. Secretary of the St. George's Hospital Nursing Fund, contributes a long and interesting letter on the subject, showing further that Indian trained nurses were competent to share, and did share, the task of caring for the plague patients at the beginning of the outbreak.

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ONE statement made by "Someg," Mr. Reddie contradicts, so far as St. George's Hospital is concerned, namely, that "the Bombay hospitals draw such a large percentage out of their nurses' salaries for private work to support their establishments." He points out that "no deduction is made from the nurses' salaries, which vary from about Rs. 20 to Rs. 80 a month, according to length of service. In addition to their salary, those on the Private Nursing Staff receive a percentage of the fees paid by the public to the Nursing Fund. They also receive, when nursing diseases such as plague, small-pox, and cholera, about 15 per cent. of the fees recovered from patients.

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WE do not think any institution would deduct money from the *salaries* of its nurses, but should not "Someg" have said, rather, *earnings* of the private nursing staff? Would Mr. Reddie's refutation hold good on this count also. We scarcely think so, because private nurses must manifestly earn considerably more than £1 6s. 8d., or even £5 6s. 8d. a month, and though to this must be added presumably the cost of their board and lodging between their cases, yet the margin between the earnings of these nurses and their receipts must go somewhere.

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WE are aware that St. George's Hospital is in need of funds, and that the position of the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer must be an anxious one. We know, also, that it is doing excellent work. At the same time, its private nurses have a right to all their earnings when expenses have been defrayed, and the accounts of the private staff should be kept distinct from those of the hospital. We hope for an assurance from Mr. Reddie that this is the case.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



University College Hospital, which has been closed during the present month, was reopened for the reception of patients on Monday last, when the first wing of the central block of the new hospital was informally opened. It is to be hoped that the public will bear in mind that the large sum given by Sir J. Blundell Maple was to defray the cost of the new building, and no part of it was devoted to the maintenance fund. There is need of increased support if the new building is to be adequately maintained.

The Local Government Board have decided to issue an order requiring the immediate notification to the sanitary authorities and to themselves of all cases of plague. The order, in its application to sanitary districts outside London, extends the provisions of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, to the notification of every case of plague occurring in the district of a sanitary authority. As regards the district of any sanitary authority in the administrative county of London, and the district of the port sanitary authority of London, the order similarly extends the provisions of section 55 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1891. The order also requires the sanitary authority forthwith to send circular letters to all legally-qualified medical practitioners in the district, informing them of their duties under the regulations.

Fresh cases of plague have occurred within the last week in Glasgow. Happily the cases are for the most part mild, although one death has occurred.

The German Hospital at Dalston has received a donation of £1,000 from Baron Schroder in commemoration of his golden wedding.

The Secretary of the Royal Hospital for Women and Children in Waterloo Bridge Road, recently applied to the Southwark Magistrate for advice as to how to deal with the case of a child under four years old who had been cured at the hospital, and whose mother, who had no home, refused to remove him. The bed he was occupying was urgently needed for other cases. The magistrate advised "formal abandonment in the presence of a policeman," and this procedure was therefore adopted. How fond are the powers that be of red tape!

A very serious epidemic of enteric fever has broken out in South London. Owing to the seriousness of the outbreak, and the alarming rapidity with which it is developing, the London School Board authorities have issued an order that schools in the neighbourhood shall be closed indefinitely.

The trustees of the Hospital for Hip Disease at Sevenoaks have received a gift of £2,000 from a donor who is as yet anonymous. This sum is for the building fund which is being raised for the erection of a

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)