

change in so short a time is little short of marvellous.

Now that women are taking another step, and are seeking representation on Boards of Management, it is important that the right type of woman should be chosen for these positions if the best results are to be obtained. They should not be saturated with philanthropy, nor, in their sympathy for the patients, imagine that those of their sex who have done so much in the past to better the condition of the sick, to raise the standard of nursing, and to purify the moral atmosphere in hospitals, are all tyrants, because they have been compelled to maintain necessary discipline, in order to reform the terrible abuses which existed in the past.

Indeed, philanthropists, pure and simple, would be better employed in collecting funds for the maintenance of charitable institutions, rather than in administrative work. The kind of women whom we need to still further perfect the system of hospital administration, are those like Miss Louisa Twining and Miss Louisa Stevenson, who combine the qualities of the stateswoman with those of the home maker. They will decline to work on ladies' committees, futile organizations, subversive of discipline, and mischievous in principle and practice, but will take their seats side by side with men on general committees. The ideal manager will make it her business to acquaint herself with the work of the various departments under her control, and she will inform herself on the subject of medical and nursing politics, so that she may justly balance the rights and interests of every department. In doing all these things she will, no doubt realize, as Miss Louisa Stevenson has realized, that the nursing of the sick can no longer be regarded as exclusively a domestic vocation, or the Matron of a hospital as a glorified housekeeper, but that the Nursing Schools of our hospitals have, under the superintendence of many of our progressive Matrons, reached a high standard of efficiency, and have now come to a point at which still further professional organization is necessary. The work of women on hospital boards should help to put the coping stone on the modern edifice of nursing organization, and many able Matrons who now fear the advent of women on hospital boards will have only reason to rejoice, should women in accepting administrative responsibility, take Miss Louisa Stevenson for their model.

Annotations.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

AN announcement has recently appeared in the Press that the "Coal Smoke Abatement Society will be glad to hear of any domestic grates designed to burn ordinary coal, and to prevent smoke issuing from chimneys." Communications on this subject may be sent to the Society at 14, Buckingham Gate, S.W. It is welcome news that a society has been formed having this object in view. Londoners are a long-suffering race, witness their endurance for all these years of the discomforts, the dirt, and the sulphur of the underground railway, but even Londoners show symptoms of rebellion against the smoke nuisance, and small wonder when we consider how business is annually impeded and disjointed by the fogs due to our unconsumed smoke, how many fatal accidents occur, and how many persons having lung complaints annually suffer unnecessary pain and discomfort from this one reason. So far, though smoke consuming kitchen ranges are largely used, smoke consuming grates for sitting rooms have not been encouraged by manufacturers, and inventors of grates of this type have not been capitalists, so says Dr. Des Voeux, the treasurer of the new Society. A point which should interest the householder with regard to smoke consuming grates, is that a cheap coal—one at 13s. a ton being good enough—can be burnt in them.

THE CANCER SOCIETY.

The Cancer Society, which has its headquarters in High Holborn, states in its last report that one out of every 14 men, and one out of every 9 women, die of this dread disease before they reach the age of 35. The number of deaths from cancer in the United Kingdom have, as shown by official records, been multiplied by five during the past 50 years and the same story comes from America. New York has doubled its mortality from this disease, while that of other diseases has diminished, and a grant from the State Exchequer has been made for the establishment of a laboratory in Buffalo, where the disease is unusually prevalent. So far the causation of cancer has eluded the investigations made, and it is in the hope of solving the mystery that the Cancer Society has been founded. Certain it is that whoever discovers the cause of, and the cure for, this terrible disease, will rank with Jenner, Lister, and other medical heroes.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)