

lighting, and it was the desire of the committee that the donations of the Guild should go towards the special fund. She was glad to say that the Lady Mayoress had consented to become the first president of the Guild, which she believed had a great future before it. The annual report was then adopted.

We hope the next step of this useful Guild will be to ask for direct representation on the Committee of Management of the hospital for which they are working, one would more willingly subscribe to their fund, if one could be assured that they would take part in its distribution. We consider it unwise for women to accept anomalous positions in relation to public institutions and Boards. They have expert knowledge—they should insist upon its true value being realized—it is only by being placed in a position of official authority that the greatest good can result from their efforts.

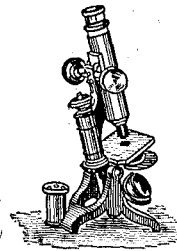
A SCHOOL OF MENTAL NURSING.

The Surrey County Council intend to erect a new lunatic asylum at the estimated cost of £300,000. The asylum, which will be built in sections, according to the architect's advice, will ultimately accommodate 1,200 patients on the following basis:—A main asylum with accommodation for 900 patients of all classes; an acute hospital for the reception and treatment of 100 possibly curable cases; a detached block for, say, sixty idiot or imbecile children, with accommodation for fifteen or twenty female working patients to assist in the nursing; four villas for convalescents or quiet working patients; a small isolation hospital for infectious diseases; a detached chapel to seat about 700; a residence for the medical superintendent; a house for the steward, and possibly a house for the clerk; and a certain number of cottages for married attendants, engineer, and gardener, and also farm buildings and a house for the bailiff.

We see no suggestion of a Home for Nurses, but presume the 1,200 patients will not be left entirely to the mercy of the "fifteen or twenty female working patients." In organising this fine institution the opportunity occurs of founding an efficient School of Mental Nursing, and it will be a great pity if such an opportunity is not eagerly utilised by the Surrey County Council. The superintendence of such a school should be placed in the hands of a thoroughly qualified nurse who has had experience in the duties which would devolve upon her.

Medical Matters.

THE CONTAGIOUSNESS OF LEPROSY.



DR. CARTER BOOTH reports a case of leprosy (*British Medical Journal*, August 11th, 1900) occurring in a man, aged 38, who had left Christiania and gone to reside in the United States when he was 21 years of age. The disease was not apparent until he had been in the United States seven years.

The patient "was not aware of any case in his own family or in the district he had emigrated to; but, as is customary, clothes had been taken to him from Norway by other emigrants." Dr. Booth says that we must presume either that the patient took the bacillus lepræ with him and nourished it in a dormant state for seven years, or that it was taken out to him in clothes at a later period.

Writing on this point in the *Medical Times*, Dr. Alfred Eddowes says:—The question as to how long leprosy can exist in any given individual without showing itself, is an extremely difficult one to answer. It is probable that the disease has been contracted by some patients as far back as twelve years before the first symptoms, or rather signs, have shown themselves. I can recall such a case occurring in this country, which at its first appearance, owing to the erythematous nodules appearing on the legs, was thought to be erythema nodosum. Until one has examined well stained sections of tissues affected with leprosy, one is at a loss to understand why such a severe disease as leprosy should take so long to show itself. If a section be taken from a nodule of skin presenting, perhaps, merely a little redness and slight swelling, with possibly some anæsthesia, and be successfully stained, the microscope reveals such an enormous number of bacilli as to cause surprise that the tissue could have lived and resisted ulceration or sloughing. When examining such a section one is driven to the following conclusion, that the bacilli of this particular disease produce very harmless toxins as far as the system generally is concerned, and that they excite little local inflammation; that they collect in such enormous quantities as to mechanically interfere with the circulation of affected parts, and that they positively eat up the tissue and form a considerable portion of

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