

Government would sanction the appointment of a second inspector. The Association is endeavouring to secure the change of workhouse hospitals into district hospitals, so that the poorer ratepayers may be able to receive their benefits without incurring the stigma of pauperism. They also advocate provision being made for sane epileptics, so that they shall no longer be placed in lunatic wards. They further desire the appointment of a lady inspector of boarded-out children, so that the programme of the Association is a most admirable one.

The nurses in several Dublin Hospitals have just been re-vaccinated to be ready for possible contingencies. It is not unlikely that their foresight will be justified. Nine passenger vessels and twenty-one cargo ships enter the Liffey from Glasgow on an average every week. If there is anyone sick on board the captain is supposed to communicate with the Public Health Office. But the vessels may be loaded with the effects of families which have just undergone the disease, and may carry convalescents, who are by no means free of infection, without interference. As most people remember, the small-pox epidemic that devastated Derry some years ago was brought by a mattress, thrown overboard from a stricken ship far out at sea, and picked up on the shore by a fisherman. It is as well to be prepared for possibilities, although anything like a scare is to be avoided.

The *Queen* says that there is a good opening for trained mental nurses at the Dalkenburgh Asylum, Cape Colony. Qualified nurses are paid at the rate of 2s. 3d. per day, with laundry, uniform, and rations.

An interesting series of articles have recently been published in the *Siecle*, by Mme. Alice Bron, who went to the Transvaal at the beginning of last year as one of the nursing staff of a Belgian Ambulance. We hope to deal more fully with these articles next week, and to give some extracts from them, meanwhile it is satisfactory to note that Mme. Bron, who went out with the usual Continental prejudices against the British, and a firm belief in the chivalry and high principles of the Boers, returns home declaring that the British Army, from the Generals downwards, were all gentlemen, with a respect for trained nurses which she believes is instilled into them in their childhood, and that the Boers are cowards in the field, and ungrateful tyrants at home. It is satisfactory to learn Mme. Bron's opinion of the Boer women, that, though jealous of strangers and inhuman to natives, they have three times the pluck of the Boer men.

## County Hospitals.

By MISS MOLLETT,

*Matron of the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital.*

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### THE RESIDENT MEDICAL STAFF.

The Resident Medical Staff at this Hospital consists of two House Surgeons, a senior and a junior. As the average number of occupied beds is over 100, and the cases are far from chronic, and include a large proportion of accidents and operation cases, and as there is also a fairly large Out-Patient Department, the number of residents cannot be called excessive.

The Honorary Medical Staff select candidates from the applications received, and the Committee of Management, which, of course, includes members of the Medical Staff, makes the final appointment.

Here a very notable difference between Hospitals with medical schools and County Hospitals comes in. The House Surgeons and House Physicians at the latter are men who have been for years connected as students with their hospital, and are well-known to the staff, whilst they themselves know the hospital, its rules, its etiquette, and, let us say, its facts. The House Surgeon who comes to a County Hospital comes, as a rule, as an entire stranger; he is unknown to the staff, whose ways he has to learn; to the Committee, who have to learn to trust him; to the "personel" of the hospital, who usually regard a stranger with truly British suspicion. He, as often as not, succeeds a man trained at some other school, whose methods in some details are almost certain to differ from his own. Used to the more breezy methods of a London Out-Patient Department, he finds a great many subscribers whose corns are wonderfully easily trodden on through their pet patients; he finds himself without the aid of his dressers and clerks, and bound to rely largely for assistance on the Sisters, who, though often excellent helpers when they learn to know their man, are apt, owing to their natural conservatism, to regard him critically in the beginning, or to quote his predecessor with irritating frequency. It often requires a great deal of tact for a new House Surgeon to accommodate himself to his new surroundings, and the best man is certainly one who "works himself in" without upsetting the hospital from stem to stern.

All House Surgeons are not, of course, equally good; their appointment must always be something of a lottery, but, on the whole, the patients in a County Hospital distinctly score in the matter of House Surgeons. The senior House

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