

We do not wonder the London Hospitals are anxious to be exempted from paying rates, which of late years have made it almost impossible for middle-class people to make a living. The new Italian Hospital has lately appealed against the assessment of the Holborn Union. Formerly the site was rated at £192 a year, and now the amount charged is £677. The Court dismissed the appeal, so that this extortionate sum must be paid by the authorities of the institution.

The 23rd annual report of the Home Hospitals Association (for paying patients) at 16 and 17, Fitzroy Square, is not altogether satisfactory; there have been fewer admissions during the past year—304, as against 332 the previous year. The income for 1900 was £4,480, as against £5,269 in 1899, while the expenditure was £5,223, as against £5,238 for the corresponding period; so that there is a nett loss of £743. This Home Hospital is run on lines which are not business-like, as it takes charitable subscriptions and charges current rates for admission, and thus competes, we consider, unfairly with other Nursing Homes which are based on commercial principles alone. Fitzroy House Finance, we believe, has the benefit of "expert business men" on its Board. For choice, give us the Balance Sheet of the Nurses' Co-operation.

The Report of the noble work carried on within the walls of Birmingham's fine General Hospital shows an enormous increase, it may be interesting to mention that in 1837, when the late Queen commenced her reign, the number of in-patients was 1,822, and of out-patients 5,646; in 1900 the number of in-patients was 5,211, and of out-patients 60,865. The daily average of patients in the hospital last year was 281½, against 268½ in 1899. The ordinary income was £16,769, compared with £14,133 in 1899, and £15,028 in 1898. Adding the extraordinary income, which comprises £3,100 from the Hospital Saturday collections and £6,009 from the Musical Festival, there is a total income of £25,878. Subscriptions and extra tickets yielded £7,278, an increase of £135 over the previous year; donations £1,037, compared with £315; and legacies £3,674. The ordinary expenditure was £23,742, and the extraordinary £538, while the sum of £107 was transferred to the Jaffray branch account to meet the deficit at that branch. An adverse balance of £6,291 remained at the end of the year, the surplus of £1,597 shown on the year's working being applied to the reduction of the deficit of £7,780 brought from last year. It is evident, therefore, that a considerably increased income is absolutely necessary to maintain the hospital in full working order to enable it to cope with the large demands made upon it, the average income during the last three years being under £22,000, while the average expenditure is over £24,000.

The pressure on the beds, though great in previous years, has been even greater during 1900, the list of cases waiting admission often exceeding 100. We are glad to note that the Board of Management expresses its continued appreciation of the services rendered to the Hospital, by the indefatigable House Governor, Mr. Howard Collins, and to the Matron, Miss M. E. Jones, and her assistants and the staff of 93 nurses.

## Professional Review.

### CONSIDERATIONS SUR LES INFIRMIÈRES DES HÔPITEAUX.\*

BY ANNA EMILIE HAMILTON,  
*Doctor of Medicine.*

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#### ARTICLE II.

##### DEACONESSES.

At the present day the Orders of Deaconesses are exclusively connected with churches which profess the Protestant religion, in which they differ from religious sisterhoods, which are organizations characteristic of the Anglican or Roman branches of the Church. The foundation of the Order of Deaconesses dates back to apostolic times. At the present time such orders are to be found in Germany (where they are most numerous), Norway, Sweden, Holland, England, Russia, America, and France, the total number of deaconesses in the institutions being, in 1895, 13,309. The best known house of the kind is at Kaiserswerth, on the Rhine, which has the honour of being the pioneer institution to inaugurate a better system of nursing. The defects of Deaconess' Institutions are, in Dr. Hamilton's opinion, that they present a low level of intellectual attainment, because it is exceptional for their members to possess general education and mental culture, that members attracted to the service of these institutions by their desire to devote themselves to the sick are often compelled to work in other departments, such as the kitchen, the laundry, the lodge, etc., that theoretical instruction is either not given at all, or is very elementary, that the probationary days of future nurses are spent in asylums and not in hospitals maintaining resident medical officers, the incompleteness of the training given, because the care of the sick at night is either altogether neglected, or placed in the hands of incompetent persons, the contempt for hygienic considerations so far as exercise and rest for the deaconesses are concerned, the independent attitude assumed towards the governing bodies of institutions employing deaconesses, the woollen dress worn, and lastly the fact that the control is vested in a religious body which cannot understand the necessities of sick nursing.

They are superior to the Religious Orders in caring for all sick persons without distinction of sex or disease, and as they perform all nursing duties the employment of coarse men and women as nurses is rendered unnecessary.

##### DIVERS RELIGIOUS ORDERS.

Under this heading an account is given of the nursing under religious communities in Irish hospitals, where the nuns act as ward sisters, but do not perform ordinary nursing duties.

The formation of the Workhouse Reform Association in 1897 is described, and the public service performed by it in obtaining the passage of a law obliging all hospitals to employ at least one certificated nurse. One result of the passage of this law is that a bishop, realising that without professional training the nuns would be obliged to resign in favour of trained nurses, took measures to obtain the necessary instruc-

\* Montpellier. Imprimerie Centrale du Midi. (Hamelin Frères.)

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