

present to make their nurses comfortable. It especially directs the attention of lady guardians to the subject, and says nursing is not only hard work, but in the small unions it is also monotonous and depressing; for these, among other reasons, efforts should be made to provide good accommodation and diet for the nurse or nurses. In many cases the diet is thoroughly inadequate. The lady guardians, who now form a large percentage of the poor-law administration, might more strenuously endeavour to brighten the lives of those who have done more than any other class to humanize workhouse infirmaries—the trained nurses employed in them.

In connection with the home-coming of the volunteers from South Africa a public welcome, which took the shape of a social meeting, was held in Stewart's Hall, Huntly, and was presided over by Provost Pirie. A very pleasant feature of the evening's amusement, and quite unique in itself, was the presentation of a 15-carat gold medal by Major Mellis to Miss Wilson, Castle Park, also from the town of Huntly, in recognition of her services as a field nurse in South Africa. Miss Wilson volunteered her services in the early stages of the war, but was not called upon until after the battle of Colenso, when an opportunity came which was quickly embraced by her. Miss Wilson first went to Aldershot, and in due course was drafted to the base hospital at Estcourt, ultimately returning home with a contingent of invalids and convalescents. While Miss Wilson was being presented the band played "Home, Sweet Home," and Mr. Wilson returned thanks on her behalf.

A commodious Nurses Home is to be built in connection with the Somerset Hospital, at Cape Town, to which Mr. Garlick has generously given £1,000 of the £8,000 required. Such work has a nice peaceful sound about it in reference to poor South Africa, distraught and desolate by fire and sword.

Amongst the passengers on the ill-fated *Tan-tallon Castle* were the following nurses, who were on their way to take up work as plague nurses in South Africa: Nurses Emily Blake, Louisa A. Boret, Alice Darby, Ada Charlotte Day, Victoria Evans, Margaret Gordon, Mary M. Goy, Sarah Hancock, Katherine M. Hoddell, Alice Clara Holland, Eliza Johnstone, Maggie McCarthie, Ethel Macfie, Mary Middleton, Mary Nelson, Lucy S. Nottage, Margaret Palethorpe, Helen Payne, Lucy S. Price, and Ada L. Warman. Their friends will be glad to be assured of their personal safety, and to know that it is believed that their personal belongings have been rescued.

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The outbreak of scarlet fever in the East End has developed to serious proportions. It is well to learn that Dr. Shirley Murphy, medical officer of the London County Council, has the matter in hand.

The Rev. W. H. Wilkins, the vicarage, Penton Street, Clerkenwell, would be grateful for hospital and convalescent home letters. Subscribers often do not make use of these valuable letters, and, as the good vicar says, "they are often a matter of life or death" to the sick.

St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, is making a supreme effort to raise the £25,000 so as to secure a like sum conditionally promised by the executors of the late Mr. Siegfried R. Zunz, for the completion of the Clarence Memorial Wing. Considering the excellence of the work performed by the institution, and how much its usefulness and efficiency would be increased by the completion of its buildings, it is greatly to be hoped that the needful funds may be forthcoming.

The usual festival dinner in aid of the funds of the North London or University College Hospital will not be held this year, in consequence of the death of the late Queen Victoria, but the committee are compelled to issue a special appeal to enable the work of the hospital to be carried on in a full state of efficiency. It is estimated that when the whole hospital is completed the total annual expenditure will be between £28,000 and £30,000, so that the adequate support of the enlarged and modern hospital will necessitate a much larger amount of voluntary assistance. During the past year 2,696 in-patients and 37,453 out-patients and casualties have been treated within the walls of the hospital. The attendances made by the out-patients and casualties amounted to the total of 131,086. The committee earnestly appeal for contributions in the form either of annual subscriptions or of donations from the charitable public.

The Edinburgh Royal Infirmary must be a millionaire hospital, as the Rev. J. B. Atkinson, rector of Larling, Norfolk, had left a specific legacy of £10,000 to the infirmary, payable on expiry of a life-rent, besides the free residue of his estate, which it is expected will increase the legacy by another £10,000. This is only one of many splendid bequests it has lately had.

Nursing Sister Alice Bron, who left Brussels in January to nurse the English Soldiers in South Africa, sends her thanks and her best remembrances to the Editor of this journal for reference to her work in the Boer camps and her article which lately appeared in the French press. Sister Bron writes her letter from General Hospital, Naupoort Camp.

The Birmingham Health Committee have at last seen their way to provide hospital accommodation for typhoid fever cases. The isolation hospital at Little Bromwich is to be used for the purpose. The care of "enterics" is very costly as the nursing is all important.

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