

There can be no question that from whatever point of view the matter is considered, a Nurses' Home, though close to a hospital or infirmary, should be separated from it. When nurses are off duty they should be away from the sight and sound of the sick, and have opportunities for rest, quiet, and recreation. Also, if they are to keep in good health, it is essential that they should breathe an atmosphere which is not pervaded with sickness. The ideal Nurses' Home is an entirely distinct building from the hospital, but connected with it by a covered corridor.

On Saturday last Miss Gertrude Alice Barker, aged about 21, employed at Blanshard's Hotel, Scarborough, was concerned in an action before the Recorder and a jury, in which she claimed £100 for work done and wages due from Mr. Robert Spink, builder, of Scarborough, the executor under the will of the late Mr. Thomas Blanshard, who died last March. The action was sent down from the Chancery Division of the High Court.

Evidence was given by friends of the late Mr. Blanshard to show that the plaintiff had nursed Mr. and Mrs. Blanshard for three years. She was paid at the rate of £16 a year, with board and lodging, but it was claimed that a promise was made by Mr. Blanshard to leave her £16 a year, if she remained with them till the time of their death. The money was not, however, left to Miss Barker in the will, and the executors refused to pay it. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff for £100 and costs.

We must say we consider the precedent thus created a most dangerous one for the public, if nurses can maintain a claim to a legacy verbally promised by a sick person. But further, no evidence was brought to prove that the plaintiff was trained as a nurse, the presumption, indeed, is quite the contrary, for as her age is now 21, and she had been nursing for three years, she must in this case have begun her training at the age of 15! The possibility of her being trained may, therefore, be dismissed. It should be distinctly understood that she does not receive it as a trained nurse, and has no right to pose as one.

An effort is being made to raise the funds to provide in Paris an American Hospital with American trained nurses, where citizens of the United States and other countries could receive the best care and medical attendance during illness.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Surgeon-General W. Taylor, M.D., C.B., to be Director-General Army Medical Service, and, on the retirement on the 31st of December next of Surgeon-General H. S. Muir, C.B., that of Lieutenant-Colonel A. Keogh, M.D., C.B., to be Deputy Director-General, with the temporary rank of Surgeon-General.

As we go to press the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital are holding a special Court, at which Sir Sydney Waterlow will advocate the purchase of the whole of Christ's Hospital site. This is a wise policy. Never again will the hospital have such a chance, and unless this great charity can extend its borders it cannot keep pace with the modern requirements of an efficient hospital service.

The Bishop of Kensington delivered an address last week in the chapel of the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, on the occasion of the Harvest Festival Service. The chapel had been tastefully decorated with fruit, corn and flowers by some of the sisters and nurses, a considerable proportion of the decorative material having been supplied from the garden of the hospital's convalescent home at East Finchley.

The committee of the North London Hospital for Consumption, Mount Vernon, Hampstead, has received a donation of £1,000 to name a bed "In memory of the late Mrs. Henry Claudet, who died at Cannes."

The foundation stone of the new Restall Wing at the Royal Hospital for Incurables, Putney, in memory of the late Mr. W. Restall, was laid last week by Mrs. Restall. The Marquis of Northampton, President of the hospital, made an earnest and sympathetic speech, in which he expressed his satisfaction at the extension of this truly beneficent work.

A meeting of the London School of Tropical Medicine was held last week at the Royal United Service Institution, when it was announced that Sir Francis H. Lovell, C.M.G., is about to proceed to the tropics for the purpose of making known the aims and objects of the school.

An alarming outbreak of typhoid fever is being dealt with by several local authorities in the East Northumberland mining districts. At Ashington Colliery 76 fresh cases have been notified during the present month, in Bedlington some 50 cases are being dealt with. Polluted mussels and ice-cream are given, among other things, as the cause of the epidemic.

A sanatorium for consumptives has been opened at Delamere Forest on the Cheshire uplands which is intended especially for the benefit of sufferers from phthisis in the city of Liverpool. It should prove a boon to many.

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