

provided for levelling up the "backward" hospitals, many of which he considers "a disgrace to the age we live in."

Referring to the contention that the visiting staff in Dublin train nurses, he writes:

"But can it be shown that the training of nurses in Dublin hospitals is carried on mainly or in any important degree by the visiting staff? True, lectures are given in elementary anatomy, physiology, minor surgery, etc., but it does not require a numerous visiting staff for this, most of which is probably done by one or other of the junior members or by the house surgeon, while 90 per cent. of the teaching is done by the lady superintendent and staff sisters.

"One hears of a hospital being a good training school, not because certain eminent men, whose time is very fully occupied are on the staff, but because the system of training as organised by the lady superintendent and her staff is good."

Miss Louisa Twining pleads for a similar appointment to that of Matron-in-Chief in the new Army Nursing Service in another State department—the Local Government Board. She writes: "When the subject of nursing the sick has become the chief and most important of the duties of the Poor Law, I venture to ask if it is unreasonable to demand that at least some women should be consulted on matters which have always been considered their especial province? I have long urged an increase of qualified women inspectors, but I add this request as one still more urgent and far reaching."

An action has during the past week been engaging the attention of Mr. Justice Byrne in the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, brought by Miss Theodora Tompsett, a hospital nurse, against Miss Gertrude Hirst. The plaintiff claimed that as co-partner with the defendant, she was entitled to an equal share in the West Riding Nurses' Co-operation Home, Birklands, Rotherham, and the goodwill and other assets. The defendant repudiated the partnership, and since February had excluded the plaintiff from the Home. There was no written agreement.

In giving judgment, the learned judge said he had come to the conclusion that there was no formal partnership entered into. He believed that it was in the mind of both parties that should the scheme prove that it could be successfully worked, there should thereafter be a partnership entered into upon terms to be arranged. The plaintiff had failed to make out a verbal partnership, and the action failed and must be dismissed with costs. The result shows the importance of having agreements of this nature in writing.

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR

The Prince of Wales will be received as President of St. Bartholomew's Hospital on Tuesday, December 3rd.



A scheme has been started for promoting a memorial to the late Emperor and Empress Frederick, in the shape of endowing a bed for a patient suffering from cancer in a woman's hospital. Especial regard being had to the keen interest taken by her late Majesty in the welfare and advancement of women, it is proposed to locate the memorial bed in the New Hospital for Women, Euston Road. The sum of £2,000 is required.

Earl Roberts presided last week at the festival dinner in aid of the building fund of the Victoria Hospital for Children, Chelsea, at the Hotel Cecil. Lord Roberts, in proposing "Success to the Victoria Hospital," said that when Earl Cadogan did him the honour of asking him to preside he felt some misgiving as to the propriety of acceding to the request, but he was then serving in Ireland, with Earl Cadogan as his immediate commanding officer, and in the interests of discipline he felt it would be improper to refuse. After warmly urging the claims of the hospital, Lord Roberts said that the estimated cost of the new building was £30,000, and he hoped that in response to the appeal he was now making that a goodly portion of that sum would be subscribed.

The Victoria Home for Nurses has just been opened in connection with the Salisbury Infirmary. The Home is built of red brick with tiled roof, and the entrance for the nurses will be from the infirmary through a covered way. On entering the building a cloakroom will be found on the left, 19 ft. by 12 ft., fitted with lavatories, dressing-tables, and lockers. The Home is lighted throughout with electricity, and heated with hot water. The corridor leads into a hall, opening into which are sitting-rooms for the superintendent, head nurses and probationers. On the first and second floors are forty-four bedrooms, varying in size from 18 ft. by 9 ft. 6 in. to 12 ft. by 8 ft. 6 in. The staircases are of stone, and provision is made for escape in case of fire by three iron ladders which are accessible from each floor. The upper floors are of Potter's patent fireproof construction. Telephonic and electric bell communication is established with the infirmary. So that it will be seen that the well-being of the nursing staff has been considered in every particular.

When the news of the death of Dr. William Smyth, at Dungloe, co. Donegal, reached Londonderry, it was received with feelings of deep regret. He was a dispensary doctor of the district, and contracted typhus fever in the discharge of his duties. Having learned that there was a case of virulent typhus on the island of Arranmore he with difficulty procured an old boat, and, accompanied by Dr. McCarthy, Local Government Board Inspector, went over and brought the patient to the mainland. Dr. Smyth contracted the disease and died in a few days. His predecessor met his death under exactly similar circumstances. It is a good thing to meet Death on Duty.

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