

fining the duties of the Master and Matron, and of the Superintendent Nurse. The last-named officer is, and always must be, subordinate to the chief officials of the workhouse, and it is only in cases where she has been guilty of gross presumption that any friction has arisen!"

The same journal urges Presidents and Secretaries of Masters' and Matrons' Associations to at once summon special meetings of their respective organisations, to discuss the position of matters and to decide upon a definite and uniform plan of action. The same journal adds: "The committee, who will, of course, receive evidence, should not be allowed to select witnesses according to their own sweet will, and readers may take it from us that it is eminently desirable that each Association should promptly insist upon one or more of its members being heard. We attach the greatest possible importance to this phase of the committee's work, inasmuch as the desire to radically alter the present relationship of Masters and Matrons to the Superintendent Nurse is the main reason why the inquiry has been decided upon." All of which shows that trained nurses must be up and doing if their side of the question is to have a fair hearing.

A deputation representing the poor-law unions and county infirmaries of Ireland recently waited on the Irish Local Government Board, at the Custom House, for the purpose of drawing attention to the present system under which nurses were trained. Special reference was made to the comparatively few institutions in Dublin which gave training to nurses, as it was considered inimical to the public interest.

Two hundred and thirty candidates were passed and certificated as midwives by the London Obstetrical Society in January, and, as each candidate pays an examination fee of one guinea, the very substantial sum of £241 10s., exclusive of the half guineas of the failures, was the quarter's takings by this medical society.

Miss Clara Barton, the Florence Nightingale of America, is to be presented by Congress with a gold medal, to mark the thanks of the American nation for her services to the sick and wounded during the late Spanish war. Miss Barton is a noble woman, whose services have been generously rendered to the stricken soldiers of every nation. Miss Barton, who is nearly 76 years of age, like Miss Nightingale, feels the weight of her years interfering with her work, but both must be greatly comforted with the knowledge that with them time only brings further opportunities for the civilised world to do them honour.

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Princess Henry of Battenberg, as president of the Royal Isle of Wight Infirmary and County Hospital, has consented to preside at the annual meeting of that institution to be held at the Guildhall, Newport, on February 12th.

The Treasurer of Guy's Hospital has received the sum of £500, being the gift of "C. A. G." to endow a cot "in remembrance of a child of two years of age having been admitted to the hospital in 1862, without charge, and cured of a broken leg."

At the first meeting of the new board of management of the National Hospital, Queen Square, the Earl of Harrowby was elected treasurer of the hospital, the Rev. Prebendary Wace chairman, and Mr. J. Danvers Power vice chairman. Sir Edward Fry and the members of his committee of inquiry were elected honorary life governors of the hospital.

The London County Council has made chicken-pox a notifiable disease for a period of three months, in order that suspicious cases may be kept under observation and thus cases of small-pox mistakenly diagnosed as chicken-pox may not escape detection.

At the annual meeting of the trustees of the Liverpool Royal Infirmary, Sir William Mitchell Banks said that the whole structure and apparatus of surgical operating theatres had altered since the infirmary was built. Their large theatre was built on the best model of the day 15 years ago, but it had become old-fashioned even in that short space of time. A generous friend of the institution was now building in place of that theatre two new ones, which would be equipped in the newest and most up-to-date manner. The donor of the gift desired his name not to be mentioned publicly.

We regret to learn that both at the Lincoln County Hospital and the Royal United Hospital, Bath, the expenditure necessarily largely exceeds the income. Of late years so much capital has had to be withdrawn for structural improvements in country hospitals to keep up with the scientific progress in surgery and nursing, that many committees find themselves crippled for funds. Anyway, we hope the local magnates—they exist everywhere—will see well to make generous donations, to prevent the closing of wards.

We learn that the Bovril dividend will be at the rate of 4 per cent. on the deferred, with £25,000 carried to reserve, and £14,354 forward. For 1899 the deferred dividend was 2 per cent., and for 1900 3½ per cent.

Five hundred of the married women of Aldershot Camp have subscribed towards a life governorship of the Aldershot Hospital, and presented it to Lady Audrey Buller as a mark of their love and appreciation of all that Lady Audrey has done on their behalf.

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