

**The Hospital World.**

**COTTAGE HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION.**

We are frequently consulted by the authorities of cottage hospitals as to the details of organisation, in connection with the maintenance of the necessary nursing staff. It must be said at the outset that, in a small hospital the cost of organising the nursing and domestic departments on an efficient basis, is always greater than in a large one. There must be a Matron, be the hospital large or small, and however few the number of beds, there must, in addition, be a day and a night nurse, if the hospital is to be adequately staffed. Again, for more than one reason, the nurses should be certificated, as it is not right that a probationer should be left in charge either night or day in the absence of the Matron, and, moreover, probationers cannot be offered an adequate training in a hospital of a few beds. All these considerations make cottage hospital nursing on proper lines somewhat costly. The authorities of many of these institutions, strangely enough, seem to think that they have fulfilled their duty to the patients, and to the unfortunate nurse, when they appoint a Nurse-Matron in a hospital of six or even more beds, and make her responsible for the care of the patients, and the domestic arrangements, day and night.

One of two results is almost sure to occur. The conscientious woman breaks down physically and mentally under the strain imposed by such work, the unconscientious one shirks her duty, with the result that the patients suffer.

We cannot too strongly urge upon the Committees of Cottage Hospitals, more especially those who undertake the organisation of a new hospital, that they should obtain the advice of a professional nursing body, or expert nurse, as to what constitutes an efficient staff. Nursing is now too highly specialised a calling for lay organisation of its details to be possible, without inevitable mistakes, and committees will be saved much trouble if they early realise this fact. We can but regret that trained nurses do not help to bring this home to them by declining to accept posts where the duties are manifestly impossible of performance, except under conditions of strain which should be imposed on no one.

The old legend that "nurses are trained to do without sleep" should surely be exploded by now, yet apparently Committees act upon this belief when they expect the single nurse to be on duty throughout the day, and to be listening while in her bed for the calls of patients. And when is a single-handed nurse expected to get out?

**Reflections**

**FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.**



Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales on Saturday afternoon visited St. George's Hospital and went through nearly all the wards. They conversed with many of the patients, and were much interested in all they saw.

Their Royal Highnesses, the Princess of Wales, and Princess Louise Duchess of Fife, have graciously accorded their special patronage to a concert to be given at 50, Grosvenor Square, by permission of Mr. and Mrs. W. Palmer, on April 28, in aid of the Hospital for Women, Soho Square.

The Organising Committee have received at 81, Cheapside, E.C., a donation of £20 from "Anonymous" to King Edward's Hospital Fund for London as a thank-offering for being many years a naturalized British subject, with the expressed wish that at the present time many other of the King's naturalized subjects would show their gratitude to this country in a similar way.

Since August there have been in the metropolis 3,000 cases of small-pox. Ten have died at the South Wharf shelters, and the remaining 2,990 had been conveyed to the hospital ships at Long Reach. Of these 513 have died, 1,647 have been discharged cured, and 1,002 remain under treatment. The authorities, so far, have not refused admission to any case.

Sir . . Crookes and Professor Dewar analysed 2,522 samples of London water last year and made bacteriological examinations of 6,893 others. They found that the quality of the water on the whole was excellent.

James Jones, a well-dressed man, has been committed for trial by the Westminster magistrate on charges of stealing overcoats at St. Thomas's Hospital, and causing serious bodily hurt to an attendant by whom he was questioned.

The Leeds General Infirmary is shortly to have a bed endowed as a memorial of her late Majesty, Queen Victoria. Miss Beckett, of Somerby Park, Gainsborough, has generously intimated her intention of making such a provision possible. The value of the endowment, we are informed, is £1,000.

The rebuilding of the Manchester Royal Infirmary is a very, very old subject of discussion, but the scheme with that object in view has of late made good progress. It is referred to in the annual report of the Board of Management of the Infirmary submitted to a meeting recently, prior to its presentation at the annual meeting of the Infirmary Trustees this week. The Board is of opinion that the delay which has taken place in the settlement of the question of the enlarge-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)