

Queen. In 1854 Mrs. Hely left England with Dr. Holmes Coote and Mrs. Coote to join Miss Florence Nightingale's staff of nurses in the Crimea. She served under Dr. Parkes at Ranki, in the Dardanelles, from August until after the end of the war, when all the soldiers were convalescent and ready to return home. She had 150 patients at one time in her care. After returning to England she nursed Miss Nightingale for some months. She was selected to nurse the late Duchess of Kent, mother of her Majesty, but the Duchess died about the time Mrs. Hely was to have commenced her duties. The state of Mrs. Hely's health, and the fact that she was in her seventy-eighth year, prevented her undertaking the fatigue of a journey to Windsor for the presentation of the Royal Red Cross by the Queen in person. Dr. Barber, master of the Ravenstone Hospital, was the means of obtaining the decoration for the distinguished old lady, who was loudly cheered at the ceremony by a large number of residents who attended it.

Mrs. Hely had but a brief illness, even in her advanced years, being comparatively well and following domestic duties almost to the end, when she was prevailed upon by Dr. Barber, the master of the hospital, and lady friends to take a rest in bed, which she reluctantly did for the last time. Her death was due to heart-weakness, from which she suffered many years. The deceased lady enjoyed the esteem and regard of the many ladies in the hospital, and of Dr. Barber, who was proud of the aged Crimean nurse being under his care, and who considers that Leicestershire should be proud of her remarkable history.

A LOSS TO THE NURSING WORLD.

The death is announced of Miss Holcroft, a relative of the late Cardinal Manning, a lady who took a great and a very practical interest in the training of nurses for, and otherwise improving the Irish workhouse hospitals. With the approval of the Bishop, Dr. Sheehan, who is deeply interested in hospital reform, the Clonmel Guardians, and Dr. Crean, M.D., Miss Holcroft, took charge of Clonmel Workhouse Hospital for some years, and started the system of training probationer nurses, which has been found so successful that nurses trained in Clonmel Hospital are now recognised by the Local Government Board. Miss Holcroft, who was a lady of independent means, gave her services gratuitously in Clonmel and other hospitals where she laboured, thus enhancing the value of her good works. She went to South Africa as a nurse during the war, but contracting lung trouble, she returned home last month, and passed away recently at her sister's residence in London.

Nursing Echoes.

* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



The Governors of the London Hospital are desirous of building a new Nurses' Home, which will provide accommodation for 260 nurses, and are also considering a scheme under which pensions will be awarded to their nurses. It is regrettable, however, that during the last few months the hospital has not received the requisite financial support, and the Chairman, the Hon. Sydney Holland, stated recently that, as a consequence, £5,000 had been borrowed, while certain investments had been sold out.

A Society, of which H.R.H. the Duchess of Fife is President, has been formed in Marylebone, under the title of the Marylebone Daily Visiting Nursing Association, with the object of furnishing a nurse by the hour to paying patients who cannot afford the entire services of one. The Society should prove useful in meeting the needs of a large class of persons for whom, at present, little provision is made.

Following on the revelations to which we referred last week, *Truth*, in its last issue, has a leading article on "Private Nursing Hells," in the course of which the Editor says:—

"The shocking revelations in last week's *Truth* of the inner life of a so-called "private nursing home," have been received, as I expected, with horror, amazement, and in one or two cases, incredulity. One gentleman seems to think that I have invented the facts for the purpose of ministering to the public craving for unpleasant sensations. 'Until I have seen them with my own eyes,' says this Didymus, 'I will not believe that such abominations can be perpetrated in modern London, under the eyes of prying neighbours, and inquisitive police and sanitary officers.'"

But an Englishman's house is his castle, and unless authorised by the law neither neighbours, police, nor sanitary officers can force their way into a private dwelling house, in which light nursing homes are at present regarded.

As so many of the patients received in these homes are persons who, though not actually insane, are mentally deficient, and of weak intellect,

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