

We recently inquired of a nurse who has been working in South Africa for three years if more trained nurses are required, and if they would find work if they emigrated, and she replied: "My advice is, Don't, as there are more than enough already. There are numerous private nurses out here, both of the 'old style' and 'up-to-date style'; at the Cape, and in Pretoria there are more than enough, and at Johannesburg there is a sort of Co-operation. Work varies just as at home: too much at one time, not enough at another, and patients vary very considerably too—some nice and refined—others, rich and vulgar, who grudge a guinea a week to a refined woman for her services as a nurse, and often expect housework thrown in for the guinea. The Kaffir servant invariably runs away in times of sickness—he has to go to bury his grandmother, or his cousins, or his aunts, and his relations are legion, so that, in addition to nursing, a nurse has household troubles and worries. No, I would not do private nursing out here for £5 5s. a week. Work in military hospitals is delightful; it is such a free life, and the climate is lovely, and I am very truly thankful I had a chance of coming out to South Africa."

The Rev. W. F. W. Anderson, in appealing for support for the Fatshan Hospital, Canton, describes the difficulties with which the missionaries have to contend in dealing with sickness amongst the Chinese. Thus, called in to see a lady belonging to one of the wealthiest families in the city, nearly "healed to death" by the native physicians, and suffering from acute gastritis and malaria, he is asked "Will she die?" "That," he continues, "was a puzzle! If she were an English lady, in an English home, No; she would not die! But here was a Chinese lady, heathen, superstitious, idolatrous, believing in devils, in native medicine, who would take one dose of my drugs, and perhaps three basinfuls of native nostrums, who, not believing in me, might not be even a third part obedient."

It is just for these reasons that the value of hospital treatment comes in, and it is hoped to build in Canton, on land lately acquired, a large and commodious hospital, costing £4,000. The subscription list was opened by a Chinese lady of ninety-three, who was healed of carbuncle, and showed her gratitude by a gift of 100 dollars.

A verdict of "suicide during temporary insanity" was returned at the inquest concerning the death of Annie Morgan, a hospital nurse, who was recently drowned at Rockferry. The sister of the deceased nurse, who lived at Manchester, said that she had recently been very depressed in consequence of the fatal termination of the illness of a patient. The strain of mind experienced by nurses is little comprehended as a rule.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught has undertaken to preside at a festival dinner on behalf of the Hospital and Home for Incurable Children, Maida Vale, on Thursday, June 25th.

Of the 2,568 patients in the Metropolitan Fever Hospitals on Saturday, 963 had been admitted during the previous fortnight—436 with scarlet fever, 274 diphtheria, 10 typhus, 31 enteric, and 21 small-pox.

A Committee has recently been appointed to consider the desirability of the removal of St. George's Hospital—a public question as it appears to us, as this hospital is supported by voluntary contributions. We therefore asked Mr. Todd, the Secretary, if he would be good enough to furnish us with the names of the Committee.

To our surprise we have received the following reply to our request:—

St. George's Hospital, S. W.

"The Secretary presents his compliments to the Editor of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and regrets that he is unable to comply with her request to furnish her with the names of the Committee appointed to consider the scheme for the removal of the Hospital."

Why this fear of publicity? We have, however, procured the names of the Committee from another source, and must confess to some surprise that Sir Henry Burdett—the vice-chairman of a company which is reported to be desirous of "doing a deal" with St. George's over their site—should have been placed on the Committee which presumably will be called upon to advise as to the price of the site, if the hospital is removed.

The improvements at the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic in Queen Square have been very extensive, the most important being the thorough overhauling of the drainage and sanitary arrangements, which in many respects were imperfect and behind the times; and the installation of the electric light, which is absolutely essential in a modern hospital. The board have wisely sanctioned a separate light for each bed in the wards, with the necessary connections for electrical treatment when required. A telephone system has also been installed throughout the buildings, and the heating and ventilation arrangements and the fire appliances have been revised and improved. The house in Powis Place has been altered and adapted to serve as a home for the night nurses, thus setting free rooms for isolation wards. At least £20,000 will be needed for the proposed extension of the hospital, and in support of the special appeal which is to be issued the Lord Mayor has consented to preside at a festival dinner at the Whitehall Rooms on April 30th next.

At a meeting of the Cardiff Union Dispensary Committee Mr. W. B. Taylor, dispenser in charge of the Charles Street Dispensary, recently stated that during

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