

Everything the hearts of surgeon and Sister could desire to facilitate their highly-skilled work appeared to hand. I believe this department cost upwards of £6,000, and I have no doubt in the saving of life it is well worth the outlay.

ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL.

Beautifully situated, looking on to St. Stephen's Green—a miniature park, with which a tasteful gardener has worked wonders—St. Vincent's Hospital has found a home in the old and very magnificent town house of the Earls of Meath and the house adjoining. This hospital is a Roman Catholic institution, and, like others, has appointed a lay nursing superintendent—Miss Campbell. Here, again, the beautiful Italian mouldings, the Adams scrolls, the most exquisite marble mantelpieces, and other works of art are mercifully preserved, whilst the rooms have been in some measure remodelled for hospital use. There are some fine wards specially built for the purpose, very bright and picturesque. Here, again, Sisters are actively engaged as superintendents of nursing in the wards. Linen aprons and sleeves in some instances are worn.

Both at St. Vincent's and the Children's Hospital very beautiful chapels are attached, which we were privileged to see.

THE ROTUNDA HOSPITAL.

One hospital I was determined to visit; that was the world famed Rotunda, the great maternity hospital, which contains 100 beds, and where hundreds of pupils have passed through its excellent training of six months' duration. It is, indeed, a most interesting institution, founded by a great philanthropist in the far-off days before the cult had degenerated into a profitable pastime, and who, after giving all he had to the poor, died in the poorhouse. If only his superb spirit knows how each coin he bestowed has been blessed an hundredfold in the saving of agonised suffering, the mutilation of the mother, the crippling of children, and of fever and death and heart-break, surely great must be its reward.

In the lofty, deep-windowed wards, bright with flowers, the beds were full of mothers and babes—and such magnificent babes, looking to our inexperienced eyes large and knowing enough to have lived many days instead of hours. Indeed, one Sister said Irish babies were known to be larger and heavier than those of other nations, and all those in her ward went to prove that this proud boast was true.

New wards have been added to the Rotunda for the treatment of gynæcological cases. These were built on a more scientific plan, but I admired the stately old wards most, with the armorial bearings of past benefactors decorating the walls, and the spirit of the compassionate founder pervading the place

E. G. F.

The Progress of State Registration.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has been invited to read a paper and open a discussion on "State Registration of Nurses" at the approaching Health Congress at Folkestone, which is convened by the Royal Institute of Public Health from July 21st to 26th. Miss Winifred Plum, Matron of the Victoria Hospital, and Miss C. A. Barling, Matron of the Borough Sanatorium, will also present papers on the measure as it affects Hospital Nurses and Private Nurses. It is very encouraging to find public bodies such as the Institute of Public Health and the Sanitary Institute, anxious to discuss this question at their forthcoming meetings. It is to be hoped that some of the active opposers will be present to take part in the discussions, as a paper warfare is so dull and unconvincing.

The suggestion that a Select Committee of the House of Commons should be appointed to inquire into the whole nursing question is receiving support. The initiative taken by the Irish Nurses' Association at their great meeting last month in asking for an inquiry has been supported by the League of St. John's House Nurses, who recently passed a resolution to the same effect; and on the Agenda of the Quarterly Council of the Matrons' Council, and on that of the annual meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, resolutions in favour of this procedure are down for consideration. Many medical men and Members of Parliament are of opinion that such a course would be advisable.

Within the past month the Parliamentary Bills Committee has been actively engaged. A memorandum with covering letter has been sent to several hundred hospitals and infirmaries asking that the Boards of these institutions will consider the nurses' point of view before passing resolutions in opposition to Registration, as invited to do by the Central Hospital Council for London.

A reply to the Manifesto has also been sent to the 670 Members of Parliament with a covering letter asking them to give consideration to the nurses' case, which is an exceedingly strong one, and to support the effort now being made to obtain the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons to inquire into the whole nursing question.

What is the R.B.N.A. doing to further the interests of its Registration Bill? We have not heard; but those who run may read what isolated members are doing against it.

We find upon looking over the signatures to the Anti-Registration Manifesto that the names of

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