

evidence of Dr. Armstrong, will convince most persons that the Matron acted in the best interests of all concerned.

Set boldly on the crest of Hartshill, Stoke-on-Trent, and looking down through a waving lattice of leaves across a smiling expanse of well-wooded, undulating green, with all the Potteries' smoke hidden safely away under the dip of the hill, stands the latest monument to the philanthropic spirit for which North Staffordshire is famous—the new King Edward VII. Home for Nurses, which was opened last week by Sir Lovelace Stamer, Bishop of Shrewsbury. The project of establishing this building only took definite shape a couple of years ago, but under the vigorous hand of Mr. A. F. Coghill, J.P., then President of the North Stafford Infirmary, the start, when made, was a worthy one. The home, a substantial building in red brick and stone, is attached to the infirmary by a covered way. It has accommodation for the full staff of fifty nurses, with bathrooms, visitors' rooms, library, cycle rooms, and a spacious entrance hall. The grounds, which are not yet complete, include a tennis court for the use of the nurses.

Miss Dillwyn, of Swansea, is a lady who knows her own mind, and we congratulate her on her latest little passage of arms with the Committee of the Swansea Hospital, as, by fighting for a principle, she has obtained for the donors to the Convalescent Home Building Fund the privileges of a Life President. Miss Dillwyn is a woman of business, and, as such, she is fully aware that frail humanity, however benevolent, enjoys a *quid pro quo*.

It will be remembered that in 1902 the citizens of Dublin formed a Committee, with the Right Hon. the Earl of Meath as President, for the purpose of commemorating His Majesty's Coronation by a lasting memorial, and it was unanimously decided that this fund should take the form of a fund for the benefit, by grants or otherwise, of aged, sick, or disabled certificated female nurses, to be called "King Edward the Seventh's Coronation National Fund for Nurses in Ireland." On an appeal being made to the public, over £3,000 was received in response. Finally, in December of last year, at a general meeting, a Council of Management consisting of fifteen members was appointed; of these, five representatives of the nurses were elected by ballot by the nurse-members present. They were Miss S. E. Hampson, Miss B. Kelly, Miss Lamont, Miss A. M. MacDonnell, and Miss Helen Shuter. The Society consists of honorary members who subscribe £1 yearly, and ordinary members (who are certificated nurses or probationers) paying an annual subscription of 5s. Women are eligible for all offices in the Society, including that of President.

We should be the last to wish to see nurses as a

class dependent upon public charity, and we are glad to know that this view is taken by the Committee of the Fund, who are very desirous that it should be supported by nurses themselves. But it must not be forgotten that—more especially in a poor country like Ireland—the salaries of nurses are small, their working time is short, and the claims upon them are many. There must always be some, therefore, whose work has been of value to the community, who have been unable to put by sufficient to maintain themselves, even in modest comfort, when their working days are over. It is right that some provision should be made for these workers, and it is just here that the value of the Citizens' Coronation Fund will make itself felt. Every profession has its Benevolent Fund, and there is no reason why this method should not be adopted for the benefit of the less fortunate members of the nursing profession. The Secretary of the Fund is Miss M. E. MacDonnell, 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin.

A correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* states that there is a profound distrust in Russia of the Red Cross Society, which is "managed by officials to the palms of whose hands the paper rouble is supposed to stick in virtue of a necessary law." Millionaires have refused to turn their money over to the Red Cross, and operatives in mills have kept back their mites until they found a smoother channel for their charities. The fact that the Dowager Empress is the protectress of the Society delayed the inquiry which was urgently necessary, as no one cared to press for it; but an investigation was ultimately made by Baron Meyendorff into the methods of the branch of the Red Cross Society known as "Christian Succour." This resulted in this dismissal of the lady vice-president and her husband and the whole board of management. The abuses revealed have not been made public by Baron Meyendorff's Commission, but the following instances of Red Cross methods are said to be authentic. One servant girl in Moscow gave fifteen roubles, representing her entire savings, to the Red Cross; she received a receipt for ten. Warm articles of clothing made by ladies in Moscow, and despatched to the seat of war, never reach their destination, but are disposed of to old clothes men, pedlars, and others, while the Grand Duchess Sergius, who caused a box of comforts for the sick, *en route* for the front, to be opened at the railway station, found it packed full of stones.

A paper by Miss Isla Stewart on State Registration will appear in the June number of the *Nineteenth Century and After*.

The Committee of the Brompton Hospital has decided to set apart wards specially for Jewish patients, with the further provision that there shall be a "Kosher" kitchen, under the superintendence of a Jewish cook.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)