

rocks at that place. Such is the conclusion adopted by the police authorities, and also by the board of directors, after a careful consideration of the circumstances. The shore has been continuously watched for any appearance of the body or clothing, but, up to the present, no signs of either have been seen.

The admirable "Notes on Hospitals recently Visited" by Miss S. B. McGahey, which have been appearing in *Una*, are now concluded. Miss McGahey has touched on the salient features of hospitals in the United States, Canada, and Great Britain, and concludes with this remark: "When visiting all the great hospitals about which I have tried to tell you a little, the thought often struck me how much I should like to have had some of the Australian nurses with me to see those palatial buildings, and to meet the distinguished nurses who have done so much to further the interests of the nursing profession."

Some day, perhaps, when the National Councils of Nurses are fully organised and financially well supported by the members, travelling scholarships will be made possible, and through the International Organs the nurses of the world will be kept in touch with nursing progress all over the world. There are signs that these aspirations are no mere dreams.

At a recent meeting of the Council of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association held at the Melbourne Hospital, the President drew attention to the preliminary report of the Sub-Committee of the Council as to the future course for Matrons. All the hospitals of the State were now incorporated under the Association, and it was of great importance to arrange so that the course of instruction and training should be equally efficient in all. Much would depend upon the matrons, and it was felt advisable to formulate what the Council considered requisite for such office. In the first place, a general education to the satisfaction of the Council without any hard-and-fast standard at first. Next, registration by the Council as a general course after three years' curriculum and examination. Thirdly, two years' subsequent nursing experience in some responsible position, probably in some recognised hospital, during which certificates of special training, such as a gynaecological certificate, &c., should be obtained. And, finally, some training and experience, with attendance on lectures and passing examinations in the dietetics, hygiene, and domestic economics of a general hospital. The last was the practical point that would require the greatest consideration, but the Council hoped to be able to secure a satisfactory settlement by a combination of hospital and specially-qualified individual assistance and co-operation.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



KING EDWARD'S HOSPITAL FUND.—Amongst the latest contributions received at the Bank of England for King Edward's Hospital Fund for London is the annual subscription of the Worshipful Company of Drapers, which has for this year been increased from £1,000 to £1,500.

THE WELFARE OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED.—The annual meeting of the National Association for Promoting the Welfare of the Feeble-Minded was held last week, by invitation of the President, Lady Frederick Brudenell-Bruce, at 11, Gloucester Terrace, Regent's Park. The President, who occupied the chair, said that the Association had done a fair amount of work during the year. They now had a number of sub-committees—a legislation committee, a case committee which started on Charity Organisation Society lines to investigate every case brought before them, a half-crown league, an "after-care" committee to look after children over school age, a medical committee, and a finance committee. Branches were being formed, and they appealed earnestly for more helpers and subscriptions. Mr. C. S. Loch said there was no question but that the work of the Association was going on at a swifter rate, and they had considerable influence and power. There was a widespread desire that deterioration should be prevented, and that the physical and social condition of the people should be improved. He believed that by a co-ordination of authorities crime, vice, street mendicity, and disorderliness might be lessened. The Government had promised a Royal Commission to inquire into the condition of idiots, imbeciles, and "defective" or feeble-minded persons, and he believed that this would be very useful if the reference were broad enough. Mr. Thomas Holmes, police-court missionary, also spoke, and said it was strange that the authorities neglected those who most needed help. The powers of magistrates were sadly limited in this respect, for no reformatory or industrial school would receive a boy or girl who was physically or mentally incapable. He hoped that steps would soon be taken to remedy this. Dr. Shuttleworth spoke of the good work that was being done at the Society's homes, and votes of thanks were passed to the speakers and to the President for the great interest she showed in the movement.

INCREASING COST OF HOSPITALS.—The needs of the hospitals tend to increase year by year. The average cost per bed per week is to-day, according to *Our Hospitals and Charities*, some 4s. 4d. higher than it was ten years ago, owing principally to the rapid march of medical science and the increased expense which modern methods demand. But this is a trifling consideration when the greater benefits conferred on the community at large are taken into account, although a moment's reflection will show to what an enormous extent it increases the requirements of the hospitals. To a hospital with 300 beds it means an increased expenditure of some £3,400 per annum.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)