

Viscountess Pemberton has accepted the presidency of the recently formed Devonshire Nursing Association.

It is alleged that a nurse, who had been placed first on the list for a District Nursing appointment was subsequently not elected because on being questioned as to her religious creed she said that she was a Primitive Methodist. The incident, if true, is regrettable, because a nurse should be selected for her professional qualifications, not for her religious opinions.

When the Halifax Guardians amongst the "requirements" presented to them at a recent Board meeting were asked to sanction payment for two pheasants and two partridges for the nurses, some of the members protested. The nurses were allowed almost everything; they drew the line at game. Mr. Hodgson said if the game cost no more than the beef or mutton to which the nurses were entitled he could not see what difference it made to the Board. The objectors were obdurate, but their protests were found to be too late when it was announced amidst considerable amusement that the game was already consumed.

The question of extending the contract of the probationers of the Royal Infirmary, Derby, from three to four years, part of the fourth year to be spent in private nursing, has been under the consideration of the Board of Management. This arrangement has now been made. We hope that the Committee will still certify its nurses at the end of three years, and that under no circumstances will they be sent out private nursing before this period of training in the wards has been fulfilled. This we consider essential to the standing of the nurses, as with the exception of the London Hospital, every hospital of importance in the country now maintains the three years' standard of training.

A patient admitted to the Stanley Hospital, Liverpool, died after a dose of caustic soda had been administered to him by a nurse instead of the magnesia ordered. Both were kept in the same cupboard in similar bottles. The jury at the inquest returned a verdict of death from misadventure, and recommended the adoption of a better system of keeping poisons.

A correspondent writes re "State Registration of Trained Nurses":—"I for one shall be very glad to see the Bill passed, and I wish something could be done to protect our uniform. There has been a woman about here for the last two years who wears a brown uniform. I have seen her going into the public houses with bus men, and from all I can find out about her she is a thoroughly bad lot, and I don't see how she is to be prevented from wearing the uniform."

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Are there too many children's hospitals? One would imagine so to read the urgent appeals for funds by the committees of these institutions. But, spend an hour in their out-patient departments, and take stock of the poor suffering innocent atoms of humanity, brought there for relief by kind and poverty-stricken mothers, and surely one must realise that of beds there is a sad insufficiency, if all are to receive the tender care they need.

Go into the beautiful cleanly wards and watch these little ones tapping on their bed tables with bright little spoons as the dinner hour strikes. Note how sweet and cosy they look in their dainty cots, and red flannel jackets; realise that there is only accommodation for the chosen few; and then grasp the terrible deprivation and suffering entailed by closing the few wards, at the disposal of London's teeming thousands of suffering children. Surely such an extreme measure cannot be entertained for a moment, and yet, unless rich parents, whose own children enjoy every comfort of existence, are not prepared to give more generously in the future than they have in the past in support of our children's hospitals, wards must be closed, and these poor mites shut out from all chance of treatment and recovery.

With the close of the present year will be completed a work which has considerably changed the aspect of one of the finest buildings in London—St. Thomas's Hospital. The new extensions, however, do not in the least alter the river view of the noble series of Renaissance pavilions which look over the water on their still grander Gothic neighbour, the House of Parliament. The big new block now on the point of completion is placed at the back of the Westminster Bridge pavilion, and quite doubles its size. Jealous regard has been had for the nobility of the entire structure as one of the landmarks of the Metropolis, and as a result all the details are in keeping with the rest of the hospital. When the new wing is opened next year there will be a great change in the internal arrangements of St. Thomas's. The present Westminster Bridge block now contains the administrative offices and the Treasurer's House. The former will be removed to a position near one of the central pavilions. The latter will be retained, and the remainder of the block, together with the whole of the new wing, will be converted into a nurses' home, accommodating 185 nurses, and a home for paying patients, which will occupy the ground floor. By these extensive alterations and additions, which will cost about £75,000, the number of beds for hospital patients will be brought up to over 600. St. Thomas's Hospital, being well endowed, is less dependent than most institutions of the kind upon the varying support of public subscriptions.

The new Hebrew wards, which have been built through the generosity of the late Mr. E. L. Raphael of the London Hospital, are situated on the top floor of the west wing of the hospital, and provide accom-

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