

At the Annual General Meeting of subscribers to the Hospital for Invalid Gentlewomen, 90, Harley Street, Mr. W. C. Bridgeman, M.P. (Treasurer), took the chair in the absence of Lord Waldegrave (President), and stated that negotiations for the acquisition of a site for rebuilding the hospital were still in progress. The total amount required was estimated at £12,000, and of this rather more than £3,700 had already been raised. He earnestly hoped that the remainder would soon be forthcoming.

Organisation is in the air. *The Canadian Nurse* reports the good news that the Superintendents of Hospitals and Training Schools for Nurses in Canada, through the initiative of Miss Snively, are contemplating forming an Association. A Conference was to be held this Easter in Toronto to consider methods of organisation.

The same Journal this month presents pictures of the Maria Louisa Robertson Home for Nurses, in connection with the Children's Hospital at Toronto. The exterior is most imposing, and the interior evidently extraordinarily complete, not to say luxurious. Such a Home for Nurses is a model for the Dominion.

We wish the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital could be wuffed across the Atlantic and have a peep at it. Surely the housing of the nurses at this ancient foundation would then become a live question to them. Because the nursing staff has loyally submitted for years to the very greatest inconvenience and discomfort in their Home accommodation is the very best reason why the Governors should recompense that loyalty, by at once building a decent Nurses' Home. We have long thought that it was high time the Governors realised their duty in this respect. No one enters what is called the Nurses' Home at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in these enlightened days, without a feeling of regret, not to say indignation, that the institution is disgraced by such inadequate accommodation for its devoted nursing staff.

The very fine new building for the Resident Medical Staff at Bart's was occupied last week, and the spacious Out-patients' Department is nearing completion. Both these departments were urgently needed, but let us hope that the next addition may be the Nurses' Home. It is absolutely necessary, whilst other medical, educational additions can well afford to wait.

A "Parish Priest" writes to the *Guardian* to ask why the authorities of hospitals do not require candidates to be trained as nurses to produce certificates of birth, as they state the age at which probationers are admitted? He complains that a young woman in his parish in inviting him to give her a character for entering a hospital, replied to his question as to her age that she was "eighteen, but I shall give my age as twenty-two," adding that the friend who was helping did the same, and was then a Charge Nurse.

"Parish Priest" naturally objects to the deception. He also questions the advisability of "irresponsible girls of nineteen" having charge of the patients, and the dangers to their own health. The letter is wise and kind, and yet the truth is that lower middle class girls compelled to earn a living, and with a natural inclination for nursing the sick, cannot in these days afford to wait until they are twenty-two before entering upon their career. This age question has always been somewhat of a temptation to evasion upon the part of candidates. The parish register is the only authority on which hospital authorities should rely.

A note of warning is sounded by Miss Ellen N. La Motte in *Charities*, about sending phthisical patients into the country without due precautions and safeguards. She argues quite rightly that the danger to the community is considerable. Miss La Motte refers in her paper to 55 cases of tuberculosis sent into farm houses in remote places, where hygiene is not well understood, where food is not appetising, and where bedroom accommodation is deficient. She considers that fifty-five centres of infection were created, as it is doubtful if those infected houses were afterwards fumigated or cleaned with a view to making them harmless.

Miss La Motte concludes that this promiscuous sending of patients to the country is a very serious matter. It is of little value to the consumptive, but of the gravest danger to the helpless and ignorant household with whom he is quartered. If he cannot be admitted to a sanatorium, he should be watched over at home, where his danger to the community may be lessened. However sympathetic we may be, sentiment should give way to facts, and the facts show that no consumptive is capable (by the very nature of his disease) of sufficient moral courage to undertake the rigorous open air treatment alone. By ordering him to the country, we shift the responsibility and so ease our consciences, but we do not help the patient. For advanced cases we need hospitals, not farmhouses.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)