

"SIR,—To be able to exercise on occasion the quality of 'subtle sarcasm' is doubtless an enviable gift, but, unhappily, one with which you credit me in your issue of this day on insufficient grounds for alluding to the large attendance of members of the Council of the Society of Medical Officers of Health at the Mansion House meeting on Monday last. For as that representative body—consisting of twenty-eight councillors and executive officers, half of whom are scattered over the three kingdoms—appeared in response to the invitation of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress in the strength of more than two-thirds of the entire number, I am afraid that my congratulatory allusion to the large attendance can scarcely be attributed to the subtle gift for which you give me credit.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. BEZLY THORNE, M.D.

Hon. Sec. Royal British Nurses' Association."

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A KIND correspondent in Santa Cruz, California—whom I am desired to cordially thank for her letter—sends us the following, copied, she says, from a local paper, as it may be, she thinks, of interest to her fellow members of the R.B.N.A., in the old country. I only wish that all Nurses were as keenly interested in the progress of their profession as our correspondent clearly is. However, her extract is as follows:—

"In the beginning of this century, the Quakers of Philadelphia became disgusted with the ignorant Sairey Gamps who were their sole reliance in illness. Trained Nurses were a blessing then unknown, but the Friends resolved to have it. An inexpensive comfortable dwelling was rented and furnished plainly, a wise and kindly Quakeress was appointed Matron, and a few women were carefully selected from the number who wished to learn the science and practice of Nursing."

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It was requisite that these women should be virtuous, sober, honest, and possessed of a good English education; they must also be under thirty years of age, and of sound health. Each woman had her little chamber, and regarded the house as her home. She paid the exact cost price of her board, and was expected to help in the domestic work of the Home. Before being trusted as a Nurse, she studied medical books relative to her work, and attended lectures on Nursing, and clinics and demonstrations given by the ablest physicians of the city. She then passed an examination and was set to nurse patients in a hospital connected with the Home for three months. Afterward, for several months, she nursed charity patients in their own houses, receiving a small salary. During all of this time she was under the supervision of the physicians who had instructed her. She then received her diploma, and took private cases at full pay, making her home at the house while not employed."

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"In many of our large towns, where the services of a trained Nurse can only be obtained from a distant city at great expense, this simple and easy method of teaching young women to become Nurses might be followed. Like all Quaker's charities, it was almost self-supporting. The physicians gave their lectures and instruction without charge, being amply repaid by efficient skilled help in the sick-room. The women, at the cost of their board for a few months, obtained an honourable, lucrative profession. A Hospital of the town received the services of Nurses without expense, and the citizens had the services of a body of intelligent, trained women."

S. G.

Leprosy Hospitals in Norway.

By D. C. DANIELSSEN, M.D., Ph.D.,

Chief Physician at Lungegaards Hospital, Bergen.

IN the NURSING RECORD for October 6th, 1892, there has been printed an article from the "Peripathetic Correspondent," Mr. Shambrock. The article is so full of uncorrectness, that I feel obliged to protest against it. Being rather accustomed to stupid and false accounts about the leprosy disease in Norway, brought forward by tourists who know nothing about the disease itself, and who are unacquainted with the Norwegian language, I generally do not mind these accounts at all. What Mr. Shambrock tells about the leprosy Hospitals in Bergen is, however, so completely untrue, that I cannot let it pass uncensored.

The correspondent speaks about two Leprosy Hospitals in Bergen, without telling which they are. Now we have in Bergen three Hospitals: the Lungegaards Hospital, Pleiestiftelsen Nr. 1, and St. Jørgens Hospital, of which the first two are State Hospitals, the third a charitable institution, existing by its own means. Probably Mr. Shambrock has visited the last one, with which I have nothing to do, and the Lungegaards Hospital, of which he is probably speaking when he says: "Of Nursing, as we understand the term, there is none;" and further on: "The Nursing Staff consists of two country girls, both lepers." This is quite an untruth, there being at the Lungegaards Hospital two Nurses, excellent, healthy, and sound women, of which one has been at the Hospital as Nurse for nine, the other for eight years.

Later on, Mr. Shambrock tells us that "the beds are of the poorest kind, hard narrow mattresses, with coarse and unclean linen; the bare ward floors disordered and untidy, with odds and ends shown under and around the beds." In reality the beds are of iron, very well made, with woollen mattresses, and linen which is changed once a week, and at other times when necessary; the painted floors are washed every morning, and I dare say, that, upon the whole, you will find no other Hospital where the cleanliness and Nursing is better than at the Lungegaards Hospital, where for the convenience of the patients you find cold and warm baths, Russian baths, and cold and warm sea-baths. I beg also to point out, that the Hospital has a rich library, and is connected with a bacteriological and histological laboratory, from which several valuable works have been published.

Then the same Mr. Shambrock says that everything in the Hospital is cheerless and desolate, "no warmth, no welcome, no pictures in the rooms, no

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