

chief field for practice for the medical woman of the present, and the next, generation, should be heartily forwarded by women of all creeds and all shades of opinion.

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ONE would scarcely have expected that Russia would have been the country of all others to have taken a lead in giving woman an equal chance with man, unless it was in the matter of politics, when the Slav finds the female element specially useful. However, it is so. In common with their sisters of less despotic countries, Russian women are now permitted to adopt occupations hitherto considered to belong exclusively to the male sex. The Government have just included pharmacy among other female callings, women being required to pass the same examination as men. This profession has been frequently advocated as a pleasant and profitable employment for well-educated women. There is, perhaps, an opening in this direction for women, and any prejudice that may at present exist against female assistants or proprietors of chemists' shops would soon be removed if they showed themselves competent to do the work required of them.



HOSPITAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE Louth Hospital and Dispensary shows a very satisfactory report for the past year—the balance in hand has improved. We like to hear of balances in hand; it shows vigour and healthiness and careful administration. The Samaritan Fund amounts to £94 8s., with few demands upon it. Wards for infectious cases arising in the Hospital are to be erected. The confidence reposed by the committee in the Matron remains unabated, votes of thanks to the officers and committee for their services were passed, and the Medical Staff is to be increased by enlisting the whole of the practitioners in the town in the service of the Hospital. What could be wished for more, except the earnest desire for its continued prosperity?

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ISLINGTON on the 17th of the present month will be *en fete* on the occasion of T.R.II. the Prince and Princess of Wales having consented to open the Great Northern Hospital on that date.

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WE should be thankful for small mercies, and we truly are so now that we hear that the Home Secretary is making arrangements to obviate the necessity of holding inquests in public-houses in the metropolis. And why not in the provinces, pray? Surely it does not require a second thought or opinion to support

the fact that the only suitable places for inquests are at the public Hospitals, where the mortuary ought to be also.

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BIRMINGHAM has been considerably enriched in the way of institutes by the opening (which took place recently) of the buildings of the Birmingham and Midlands Skin and Lock Hospital, in John Bright Street in that town. We shall watch its progress with interest.

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WE understand that great pressure is being brought to bear on a number of prominent Members of Parliament to induce them to support the application for a Royal Commission to inquire into the finances and standing of our Hospitals and charitable institutions. We earnestly hope that the inquiry may be a searching one. If the services of Mr. Labouchere, Mr. Burdett Coutts, and Lord Randolph Churchill, with several others we could mention, could be obtained, we might look for some interesting "revelations."

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IRELAND finds it necessary to consider the advantage of the amalgamation of its workhouses. 168 of them fifty years ago were built when the population was about eight millions; now it is five millions, and the paupers—that is, the bulk of them—seem to have sought fresh pastures, emigration having thinned them out, and we hope improved their social condition.

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WE understand that there will be published shortly a work on book keeping for Hospitals and kindred institutions. It will be compiled by a gentleman who has taken a great interest in Hospital finances, who will probably be assisted by a well-known chartered accountant. The system appears to be simplicity itself, and an endeavour will be made to induce all the Hospital authorities to adopt it.

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THE Beckett Hospital, Barnsley, shows a deficiency in its accounts of the last year of about £70. This amount is so little, but the principle involved so great, that we trust an earnest effort will be made to rid the institution of its financial incumbrance. Debt has frequently the same moral, or rather immoral, effects on institutions as it has upon individuals; far better a lesser work being done at a less cost than a larger work with a financial incubus staring the authorities in the face.

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