

training from two to three years. All who understand the subject, from practical experience, know that this is the only certain way to ensure a good Staff of thoroughly Trained Nurses, and by far the best way for a Hospital to be worked which takes and trains Probationers; while, on the other hand, it is the most advantageous system for these latter, especially now-a-days, when work is so difficult to obtain, even with a first-class Certificate. In fact, everything seems to point to the certainty that the few Institutions which still keep to the two years' system will be obliged to enlarge the term to the longer period. There is no doubt that, under the energetic management of Miss Barton, the Nursing Department at the Royal Free Hospital promises to take a distinguished place among its contemporaries in the Metropolis.

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I WOULD advise any of my readers who have the opportunity, to take an early opportunity of visiting Dr. Barnardo's new Infirmary for the waifs and strays he has rescued from the London streets. I suppose everyone knows the grand work he has accomplished in the last twenty years by his enormous energy in the worst parts of London. I have shown Mr. Editor the interesting pamphlet Dr. Barnardo has issued upon the subject, and he has promised to find space and reprint it soon if he obtains permission to do so. The building is very good, and the best has evidently been made of the site at his disposal. I am very glad to hear that very nice rooms have been provided for Sister Clara, who has identified herself with the Nursing of the sick among the poor rescued children, and who will, I am told, be the Sister-in-Charge of the new building. They are, it seems, to be on the first floor, close to the Wards and her work—a most sensible arrangement, and one that is in vogue at the Middlesex Hospital, but at very few other of our Metropolitan Hospitals, I believe. The room is furnished with telephones and other ready means of communication. I hear that the Nurses' rooms are pretty, and very lofty and airy, and that the walls in the basement, which contains the kitchens and other offices, are lined with white cemented bricks, which not only adds much to the lightness, but also to the cleanliness, of those quarters. My correspondent, who kindly sends me these particulars, adds: "The little brass spikes, placed at close intervals down the bannister-rail of the staircases, speak volumes as to the class of lad admitted as patients, and as to the probability of their employing these, if not protected, as an easy and dangerously rapid path of descent." I hope to hear soon that the good Doctor's appeal has been so liberally responded to that the new buildings may be opened, and that Sister Clara and

her devoted fellow-helpers may be able to move from their hitherto somewhat cramped quarters in the Bow Road, where, nevertheless, so much good work has been done in the face of the greatest difficulties, into their pretty new quarters in the Stepney Causeway.

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I SAW, the other day, a very simple, but most ingenious and useful, invention. It is an adjustable bed-tray which has recently been invented. It consists of a light wooden tray, which rotates easily on a swivel, and is attached to a frame, which can be fastened to the bedpost in a minute by means of steel clamps. One end of the tray is surrounded by a light screen. In this enclosed end, a night-light, a food-warmer, or any small lamp may be placed with perfect security, while the rest of the tray holds medicine, a watch, and other light articles. It can, therefore, be easily so placed that the light it holds is shaded from the eyes of the patient or Nurse, but the slightest movement of the hand will turn the tray round over the bed, so that medicines or food may be prepared with the least possible inconvenience. The whole apparatus takes very little room, and, as its cost is moderate, it is likely to be extensively adopted.

S. G.

### HOSPITAL INTELLIGENCE.

REPORTS OF INSTITUTIONS, ETC., COMMUNICATED  
AND COLLECTED.

THE Poor Law authorities at Birmingham deserve great praise for the energy and far-sightedness they have displayed in the formation of their new Workhouse Infirmary. When completed, it will be one of the largest and best arranged institutions of its kind in the country. It is built upon the pavilion principle, but on a novel plan. The blocks are connected by a central corridor which runs the whole length of the establishment, but are arranged alternately, right and left of this, and not according to the ordinary style, facing one another. Each pavilion has three stories, and will accommodate about one hundred patients, the whole making up room for one thousand seven hundred cases. Each Ward is thirteen feet high, the floor space allowed for each bed being eighty feet, and the cubic space upwards of one thousand feet. The floors are of concrete, paved with polished oak blocks, and are quite noiseless. The ventilation and heating are carried out on the most approved principles, and are very complete. At the end of each Ward there is a lavatory and bath-room with an open-air balcony for the use

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