

the present Hospital not being large enough for the number of patients under treatment; this Hospital has been much improved in the last few years, but the amount of cubic space allowed to each patient is calculated on the most economical principles, and needs reformation. An appeal is being made on behalf of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, which, it is to be hoped, may meet with a hearty response. This Hospital was probably the foremost in Ireland to introduce reforms into its Nursing system; the training and discipline of its Nursing staff have been for years past excellent, and will compare favourably with that of any provincial Hospital in England. It has hitherto depended for its income mainly on its landed estates, and grants from the Hospital Sunday fund and from Trinity College whose professors largely form the medical staff of the Hospital; the first of these sources produces only one-sixth of its former amount, and the grants are insufficient to supply funds for the proper working of the Hospital. Such are the difficulties which inevitably retard the progress of our work in Ireland.

But there is another side to the picture. As in the convalescence of a patient, the improvement is not so apparent to those most constantly in the sickroom; so the advance in Hospital Nursing is less visible to us who are in the midst of the work than to outsiders. Still, everywhere, even in small country Infirmaries, there is a growing wish for Hospital-trained Matrons, who, in their turn, will not be satisfied with the rough and ignorant, though possibly kind, old woman, who was the best kind of Nurse obtainable a few years ago. Even intelligent ignorance will not satisfy the requirements of the medical officers of many of our country infirmaries; and, in places where religious intolerance does not prevail, there are good openings for properly trained Nurses. It is a significant fact that in the large Roman Catholic Hospitals of Dublin, the Sisters have been replaced by a staff of secular Nurses with a secular Matron at their head, thus showing that devotion and self-sacrificing zeal will not supply the place, in these days, of trained skill and experience.

The Consumptive Hospital, founded in commemoration of Her Majesty's Jubilee, is in process of erection in the County Wicklow. Opinions have been divided as to the advantage and necessity of having a separate hospital, and questions have arisen as to how it is to be supported, no endowment having been provided; many thought that it would have been more prudent to add a wing for consumptive patients to the Royal Hospital for Incurables, and there to try and effect a cure; this would have avoided the expense of a separate establishment, and, at the same time, have left a surplus which might have been used for endowment, but the more prudent counsels did not prevail.

The old Richmond Hospital, which forms part of the Government Houses of Industry, is being replaced by a new building on the most approved principles. The old House is, we believe, to be added on to the Richmond Lunatic Asylum, which has needed enlargement for some time.

In another letter some details of the work of the Queen's Jubilee Nurses in Ireland will be given.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



THE Address of Miss Frances Willard to the Second Biennial Convention of the World's Women's Christian Temperance Union, which was read, last week, by Lady Henry Somerset, in the Art Palace at Chicago, is a most eloquent and comprehensive survey of the Women's Movement, and will well repay those who are fortunate enough to procure and read it. She says in—

THE GENERAL SURVEY.

"There are two changeless sources of solid happiness, first, the belief in God; and second, the habit of hard work toward useful ends. The first affords a sunshiny mental atmosphere, the second keeps that ever-active engine, the brain from working on itself. For it cannot be idle, and if its energies are not directed toward objective occupation, it will find employment in such dissection of its own powers as will weaken them, and tend toward morbid views and general bewilderment. The recoil of an engine upon itself, when that engine is the brain, means, in the last analysis, insanity. Looking out upon the world we perceive that it is continually improving as to the comforts of life, the tools of mind and hand, the inventions that help on the annihilation of time and space, and the incentives to noble character. We know that this great improvement has not *happened* but *has been caused to come to pass*; and we know that human beings are the necromancers who have wrought these wonders. If we are not wandering savages, it is because of some systematic power put forth to produce that totality of improvement which we call Civilization. This was done man by man, woman by woman, step by step, thought by thought, hand by hand. Into the vast and fruitful harvest of their sowing who have passed across the stage and out of sight, we have been welcomed for a while, and the least that we can do is to add our increment of power to the totality of achievement—to leave the world, materially, mentally, sympathetically, conscientiously, spiritually, as much better than we found it, as the addition of our personality and rational effort during the years allotted to us, can cause it to become."

THE QUENCHLESS WOMAN QUESTION.

"Perhaps the novel is the barometer of women's rise. Professor Swing, in his famous lecture on the novel, set forth his favourite theory that it is the apotheosis of woman, a creature far too bright and good to be cribbed, cabined, and confined within the conventional limits of the sphere that man's selfishness had circumscribed for her, and hence she expanded into the wider circle of the novel, where she played the public part denied her in real life; for she was made and meant to be a thing of beauty and a joy for ever, not to her home alone, but to the great world; and this is so true, that in the less-developed ages, when man's self-restraint did not permit her to be a figure on the stage, young men and beautiful were attired in

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