

THE Blackburn and East Lancashire Infirmary Nurses' Home was opened last week. The building stands upon the south side of the infirmary, and is three storeys high, of red brick, with stone dressings. The ground floor consists of a building having three parallel blocks. In the wing upon the right-hand side are the kitchen, scullery, box-rooms, and the usual conveniences. The wing upon the left will be entirely taken up with bedrooms and a bath-room. The entrance-hall and vestibule are cased to a height of 4ft., with panelled framing. The floors of the corridors and the staircase landings are finished in cement concrete rubbed and polished. The floors are of fireproof construction throughout. The central block is taken up by two large sitting-rooms. The heating of the corridors, waiting-room, linen, clothes, and box-rooms is by means of a boiler in the basement upon the "low-pressure" hot-water system, and the whole of the sitting and bedrooms are provided with suitable fire-grates. The cost of the building, together with the formation of the grounds and the construction of the covered connecting corridor, exceeded £5,000.

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THE friends of the Leeds District Nursing Society, who, last year, subscribed so generously to the fund for extending the work of nursing the sick poor of Leeds, will be glad to know that the new Home in Domestic Street, Holbeck, built with part of the money then raised, is completed and opened. It is well, though plainly, built, and conveniently arranged for the purpose, to accommodate four or five Nurses, experience having taught that the work can be better done from small homes placed in populous centres rather than from large ones more widely apart, the fatigue to the Nurses of walking long distances being thus avoided and time saved. The Superintendent (Miss HARRIS) and two Nurses are now at work in the Holbeck district, and are well employed. There is a great demand for a Nurse in New Wortley and Armley, and ample accommodation in the Home for more, but the managers do not feel justified in engaging others till they succeed in getting a larger annual income. They have rented a small house in Hunslet, from which two Nurses work, making, with the Central Home in Lovell Street, three Homes in all, so that in the future their annual expenses will be much larger, whilst the society has this year lost several generous supporters by death and other causes. The managers hope friends may be found in Holbeck and Wortley willing to provide funds for nursing the sick poor of those districts.

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WE are glad to hear that Miss MOLYNEUX, the Nurse at the Greenwich Workhouse, who was attacked by the epidemic, is making satisfactory progress towards recovery.

Matrons in Council.

WHAT IS A TRAINED NURSE?



MADAM,—I have read with pleasure the correspondence in the NURSING RECORD on the questions, "Should a Probationer pay for her training? and, if so, how much?" When a woman first realizes she must earn her own living, she is in the position of the unskilled labourer, her labour being of little value. She enters a Hospital where she is provided with board, lodging, uniform, and washing; she is carefully taught a profession by practical work in the wards, and by lectures given by physicians and surgeons, for which the Hospital pays a fee. At the close of her three years' training, she is examined and granted a certificate if she deserves one; and she is then in the position of the skilled labourer—she has a profession by which she can always gain her living, and which gives a pleasant position. This, Miss de Pledge considers amply paid for, by the amount of work the Probationer does in the ward. She says, "When I commenced my training, I had to learn how to dust, scrub, polish, clean, cook, and various other domestic duties. . . . The performance of such duties as these, is surely a fair return for the privileges of training and instruction received." An "Old Lady Pupil," speaking as one does of the past, as 'the good old days' says, "In 1876 there were no Hospitals which admitted gentlewomen except by payment. Why? For the simple reason that gentlewomen desired to enter Hospitals to nurse the sick, and not to 'char,' and it was a recognized fact in those far-off days that a race horse was not much use at the plough." I was a special Probationer at St. Thomas's Hospital in 1879, when we were not only expected to do the same work as the Nurse-Probationer, but to do it better because we were gentlewomen. I agree with the "Old Lady Pupil," however, that, having paid the 52 guineas, we were more eager than the non-paying Probationers of to-day, to learn. We also asked at night, "What have I learnt to-day?" I think, however, that both those ladies put a very small value on training. Miss de Pledge thinks the ward-work pays for it, and "An Old Lady Pupil" thinks if £1 1s. a week is paid, that the Probationer should be exempt from all cleaning. I hold that that work is as necessary to the proper training of a Nurse, as the knowledge of Anatomy or Physiology, which is deemed so essential, and it seems to me that it must be taught as part of the training, and can hardly be looked on as payment for that training. Probationers in these days have many privileges, and are much more systematically taught than they used to be, and for this, I am sure, they ought to pay a fee varying with the advantages which each Hospital offers; just as the students who enter any profession must pay for their training.

ISLA STEWART.

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