

a system more or less co-operative in principle. Unfortunately, however, in some cases they have not gone quite far enough, and have maintained the commission at too high a rate.

Some Hospital institutions, again, have conformed to the modern views, and have set aside the entire earnings of their private nursing staff to be used for the benefit of those women. They have done this in varying manner; some forming the surplus into a Reserve, from which those Nurses who remain on the staff are given, when superannuated, pensions and permanent assistance, together with sick pay when temporarily disabled from work. Another large Institution, as we have recently pointed out in these columns, pays this surplus to an Insurance Office, so that its Nurses shall have a certain annuity if they continue in its service.

The London Hospital has now adopted, to a very modified extent, the same principle, but has applied it in a somewhat novel method by utilizing the profits of its Private Nursing Institution to provide an allowance for washing for the whole of its nursing staff. However satisfactory this may be to the Hospital workers, it hardly commends itself to our judgment as a just measure, so far as the private Nurses are concerned, and we can hardly doubt that they would prefer to have the twelve hundred pounds' profit, which they have earned, in their own pockets, rather than thus expended.

From every part of the United Kingdom we hear the same tale, and have constant applications from Nurses—who recognise that the principle of Registration is as certain of universal adoption as the principle of co-operation is beneficial—to become members of the Registered Nurses' Society. It is easy to foretell that those Institutions which desire to continue to exist must adopt the co-operative principle, and that those which do not so conform to the spirit of the age, are foredoomed to extinction. Within the last week, we have heard that at one large nursing home more than sixty of the staff have been dispensed with, and that at another notice has been given that no fresh workers can be taken on. The same results will certainly follow in every case in which the Nurse is not completely trained, and in every case in which she does not receive the full remuneration for her work. The best trained woman will not continue to work for any Institution which "sweats" them, when they can obtain justice, fair play, and a considerable income by joining the Registered Nurses' Society or the Nurses' Co-operation. The consequences, must be that, on the one hand, only those co-operations can continue and succeed which guarantee to the public the best trained Nurses; and, on the other, those Institutions which do not work on co-operative principles will only obtain the services of inferior workers who are unable to obtain admission into first-class co-operative so-

cieties. Then, as the public will not be long in discovering these facts, the further result will follow that most of the second-rate Institutions will cease to exist.

ANTI-GAMBLERS.

The Anti-Gambling Society is determined to abolish bets and betting. As a test case, they have first attacked Northampton race course; if successful on the appeal, which it is stated they intend to make against the magistrate's decision, other similar offenders will be prosecuted. A strong combination is forming in opposition, and both sides having secured good Counsel, the case will be well argued. There is a fair show of justice in this movement; for if tavern-keepers are prosecuted for allowing bets, and smaller offenders for betting, notable examples should also be made. Apart from this, much may be said on both sides. In horse racing—*per se*—there can be no harm, and a large section of the community will say the same of betting, when kept within the limits of loss which can be afforded, and which is purely personal. But few would wish to add to the number of gamblers, and the proposal to prohibit the publication of "sporting tips" will be generally acceptable; this is a much needed reform, if even on no higher ground than that such are reputed just worth the paper they are written on. No one has a good word to say for the professional better, and gambling is known to have ruined thousands, but gambling is not confined to races. There are many who would not, for worlds, be seen at Epsom or Monte Carlo, who yet indulge in gambling on the Stock Exchange. It is whispered that members of the latter body are prominent in the Society of the Anti-Gamblers, while seven Bishops have also agreed to join in the crusade; and as sixpenny points at whist, we are told, are not unknown in clerical circles, this species of betting will also doubtless be abolished soon.

AMERICAN TRACTS.

A novelty has been introduced by a well-known temperance and religious Society in the States. Finding that tracts have become somewhat monotonous, and are not apt to rouse much enthusiasm when distributed in hospital wards, the Society has hit upon an entirely original plan. The tract is wrapped up in the shape used by chemists in folding powders. A number are put into a box and labelled "one to be taken three times daily," or "take the last thing at night." These "powder boxes" are distributed to invalids, and to patients in Hospitals and private houses, and it is said that the recipients evince great pleasure in unwrapping and reading them. It would be interesting to hear whether the literature is classed as "soothing," "stimulating," or "explosive," and whether any regard is paid to making the powder fit the disease, the age, and the sex of the patient for whom it is intended. We may expect next to hear of the innocent cough lozenge, and the mild antibilious pill being made the vehicle for similar ministrations, and an esteemed correspondent informs us that "it is now expected that this Society will shortly attempt to insist that physicians shall head their prescriptions with a text of Scripture—thus ministering to soul and body at one and the same time."

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