

THE Committee of the Great Northern Central Hospital have elected as their secretary, Mr. LEWIS H. GLENTON KERR, late assistant secretary at the Middlesex Hospital.

\* \* \*

DR ALTHAUS has resigned his post as senior physician to the Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis, Regent's Park, which he has held for the past twenty-eight years, and has been appointed consulting physician to that institution.

\* \* \*

BRIGADE-SURGEON Lieutenant-Colonel EVATT has been appointed Registrar and Secretary to the principal Medical Officer at Netley. Dr. EVATT has had great experience in corps organisation and administration, and is now evincing an active interest in the organisation of an Army Reserve of Nursing Sisters, which we do not doubt will prove an immense success.

\* \* \*

THE Duke of FIFE presided at the annual festival dinner, held last Tuesday at the Hôtel Métropole, in aid of the Samaritan Free Hospital for Women and Children, Marylebone Road. Amongst those present were Lord Windsor, Lord Leigh, the Dean of Hereford, the Recorder of London (Sir Charles Hall, Q.C., M.P.), Sir Spencer Wells, Mrs. Knowsley Thornton, Colonel Windsor Clive, Dr. H. Savage, Mr. J. R. Diggle (Chairman of the London School Board), the Rev. Canon Barker, and Mr. G. Scudamore, the Secretary. The Chairman, in giving "Prosperity to the Samaritan Free Hospital," said that the medical tendency of the age was towards specialism, and the sad cases for which this Hospital existed had a peculiar claim to be treated apart from all others. The Hospital was founded on a small scale less than fifty years ago. So successful had been the efforts of its founders and supporters that it had gradually grown from a few rooms in a small dwelling-house to the large and commodious building in the Marylebone Road, which he visited with his wife only a short time ago. They were immensely interested in all they saw. Patients were received at the Hospital from all parts of the United Kingdom and abroad. Since it was founded in 1847 upwards of 315,000 children had been treated within its walls entirely without payment, and of that number nearly 13,000 were in-patients. The Hospital required £6,300 a year for its maintenance, and its position had now become so serious that, unless larger funds were forthcoming, its means of relief would have to be diminished. This Institution brought the greatest triumphs of science to bear upon its operations, and conferred incalculable benefits on generations yet to come. Lord Leigh, President of the Hospital, responded to the toast. Donations amounting to £2,053 were announced.

## The Registered Nurses' Society.

DEAR NURSES,—Having received so many letters approving of the suggestion made in our issue of the 2nd June, that a column should be reserved weekly for the special use of members of the above Society, through which to communicate with them, and in which they could also express their views if so inclined—it is with pleasure that I address my first letter to you. We are all human—even Nurses—and I presume, therefore, that it will interest you, primarily, to hear of matters which concern you personally, although I do not suggest that this column should invariably deal with your own affairs. I hope rather to bring before you, and to interest you in, wider issues of life than can emanate even from "the birdcage" in Regent Street.

Just at present, the "Registered Co." is a new thing; we are therefore running the gauntlet of public criticism in the Press—than which nothing can be more wholesome—as, with very few exceptions, such criticisms are made in good faith, are read with pleasure, and are useful—especially if emanating from an expert—although, when we possess, as we do, a definite policy, founded on a sure principle, we have only to keep "right along," as the Americans say, and we must find ourselves "there."

In skipping the "weeklies," as I usually do over a bowl of bread and milk in the small hours, I came across the following encouraging notice in last week's *Medical Times and Hospital Gazette*, the journal of the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association, and therefore calculated to do us much good service:—

"It has for long been a complaint amongst medical men that the employment of the trained Nurse of the present day has drawbacks as well as advantages. In the first place, it is difficult to obtain the services of a woman who knows her work, because from a great many Institutions so-called Nurses are sent out who are ignorant beyond description, and whose unprofessional conduct can only be accounted for, for the same reason. Institutions, whose only object it is to make as much money as possible out of their employées, seem careless as to the harm such women do, not only to the public, but to the cause of Nursing, so long as they will accept low salaries and the public will pay for their inefficient services the customary fees. The consequence is that the market is flooded with utterly useless workers, and much undeserved odium has been cast upon the whole calling. There are not wanting signs, however, that this state of affairs is rapidly passing away; because on the one hand the Royal British Nurses' Association has not only raised the standard of training by its efforts, but is winnowing out the inferior class of workers; and an off-shoot from that Association, which has recently been formed under the name of the Registered Nurses' Society, is doing even better and more practical work for medical men and the public. The society is composed of women who have had three years' training in Hospitals, and whose character and qualifications have been carefully scrutinized by the Registration Board of the Association. The society is managed by a committee whose members

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)