

Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, replied that 8 officers and over 300 men of the Shropshire Light Infantry and detachments of the Royal Artillery and the Royal Engineers had volunteered to assist the civil authorities at Hong-Kong in cleansing and disinfecting houses in which cases of plague had occurred. Of these volunteers, one officer, Captain Vesey, and five men were attacked by the plague, and he regretted to say that Captain Vesey and one of the men died. The commander-in-Chief's high appreciation of the services of these men had already been made known to the officer commanding, and a copy of a despatch from the Governor of Hong-Kong had been received expressing appreciation of the services rendered on this occasion. He was sure that the House and the country would join in admiration of this fresh instance of the gallantry and devotion which had always distinguished Her Majesty's soldiers.

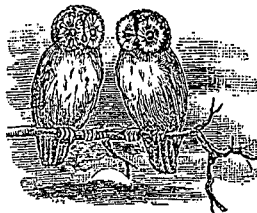
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THE report presented to the annual general court of the governors of the Sunderland Infirmary states that a larger number of patients were treated in the Institution during the past year than in any previous year, each section of the infirmary showing an increase.

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MUCH interest was shown at the recent Meeting of the British Medical Association, in the Exhibit of Antiquities, old Roman Surgical Instruments and Vessels used in Pharmacy, Terra Cotta Ware, etc., which has been gathered together by Dr. Sambon, at the instigation of the Italian Government. This gentleman has probably spent more time in research of this character than any other man in Italy, and certainly it is to his efforts, to a great extent, that such a widespread interest has been awakened. The Italian Government sometime back delegated Dr. Sambon to this duty, and most of his discoveries were made in the ruins of Pompeii. With the exhibit is presented a History of Roman Medicine, in the year 79 A.D., which is both graphic and intensely interesting. It is recorded on stone tablets, which have been faithfully and appropriately reproduced by the lithographer. We hesitate to detract from the interest which perusal of the monograph affords, but we venture so far as to say that the Romans of the first century knew many things about medicine and surgery which we know no better to-day, and they had progressed in animal medicine as far as British physicians of the eighteenth century ever went—and that is saying much. The monograph is illustrated by vases, bottles, pixidia, and apparatus used by Roman followers of Æsculapius, and there are also drawings of a large number of Roman surgical instruments, with notes on their use. These have in all cases been made from the originals.

Matrons in Council.



MADAM,—Will you let me say one or two words with reference to the Matrons' Council, as I think it is now time, as it may be helpful, for one of the promoters of the Society to offer some further explanation of what our real objects are:—

The Matrons' Council, we hope to make a society for uniting Matrons all over the world in bonds of sympathy and strength; its first business, therefore, must be to provide a meeting place for Matrons—and *Matrons only*—where they can discuss such questions as they think are best talked about privately, where everything they say will be treated as sacred, and where the foot of the reporter will not come. But that seems to me, though highly desirable, still but one of its objects. Another will surely be the more or less public discussion of such questions as relates to the training of Nurses. The education of Nurses and the best method of effecting this, is not a private matter, it is of national importance, and should not, therefore, be privately discussed. Another object will, I hope, be, by the admission of associates to all its meetings which are not private, to help those who are actively engaged in the training of probationers to get a wide grasp of their profession, business habits, and some power of expressing their opinions before other people. Since the preliminary meeting to inaugurate a Council of Matrons, the Executive Committee has met, and decided to place the proposed Bye-Laws on the Agenda Paper of the first meeting of *members* of the Matrons' Council, so that each Bye-Law may be most freely discussed before being finally adopted. We hope to have a very representative meeting, and that reasons for, and against the admission of Associates will be freely expressed. I myself am in favour of Associates, as I think their admission will considerably widen our field of usefulness. We shall never discuss the arrangements of any particular Hospital, so that the Matron of one Hospital need not fear the criticism of the Nurses of another. I am anxious to see the Matrons' Council spread into an Association of wide minded women, with high ideals and great aims; this will never be if we tie ourselves down at first with little rules. What we want is to keep our borders wide enough to allow the Matrons' Council to grow into a Society worthy of the membership of the Matrons of our grand old Hospitals.—Yours, etc.,

ISLA STEWART,
Registered Nurse. Matron and Superintendent of
Nurses, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

MADAM,—So much has been written and said in unqualified praise of the Matrons' Council, that I should be obliged if you would allow me to state my views on the subject in your valuable paper, views which I believe I am right in stating, are shared by others. I attended the meeting at St. Bartholomew's Hospital on the 13th July, and was distinctly disappointed with the form which the Matrons' Council ultimately assumed. I understood, when the idea

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