

The unscrupulous manner in which the labour of the probationers, in connection with the Royal County Hospital, has been utilised in order to increase the income of the hospital, under the late Matron's management, has long been a public scandal, and we are glad to hear that, upon the initiative of an active member of the Medical Staff, this system of nurse sweating is at last to be discontinued. We hope that in instituting the necessary reforms in the Nursing Department, the Committee of the Winchester Hospital will inaugurate a three years' system of training, thus accepting the high standard demanded by the Royal British Nurses' Association, and so enabling their pupils for the future to qualify for Registration.

THE Leeds District Nursing Association presented a most satisfactory report at its annual meeting.

The report, which was read by Miss Garlick, stated that during the year the Association had extended its usefulness by undertaking another district. At the close of the previous annual meeting a subscription of £25 for five years was offered by Mrs. Schunck, provided that an additional Nurse was engaged, but it was not until the autumn that the committee were able to place one more Nurse in the Holbeck Home, to work in the New Wortley district, where there had been great desire expressed for such help. Those interested in the matter not only urged the committee to send a Nurse, but exerted themselves to raise the money, and they collected over £70 in the neighbourhood. It was hoped this example would be followed in other parts of the city. The need for a second Nurse in the west end of the city had been for some time under consideration, and a gentleman had promised £20 annually when that district was commenced. Arrangements were now being made to do this as soon as possible. During the year, 1,566 patients had been attended and 35,808 visits paid. Nor should the great boon of the loan of Nursing requisites be forgotten, for they were generally beyond the patients' means to procure, and were essential to their comfort, and frequently to their chance of recovery. Allusion was made in the last report to the affiliation of the Leeds Association with the Queen's Jubilee Institute for Nurses. This connection had already been found advantageous. Early in the year Miss Peter, the lady inspector from St. Thomas's Hospital, visited the three homes, and saw several of the Nurses attending their cases, with the gratifying result that she was able to send in a most satisfactory account of the work, and the council at once adopted Leeds as one of their training homes. Two Nurses were now undergoing six months' training in district work, one in the central district and the other at Holbeck; and the two superintendents and several of the staff had been accepted as Queen's Institute Nurses, and they wore the appointed badge. The state of the funds had caused considerable anxiety until the close of the year, when several unexpected and most welcome donations placed the accounts in a more favourable light, and the treasurer's report showed a small balance in hand. A sum of £100 had again been received from the Workpeople's Hospital Fund, £20 from the Ossington Nursing Fund, £50 from the Leeds Ladies' Hospital Fund, and several handsome donations from individuals. Upwards of £20 had been paid by the patients and their friends, chiefly in small sums put into the collecting-boxes at the Homes as thank-offerings for the help received. Some of these contributions had been given out of great poverty. The committee were under great obligation to the Charity Organisation and Benevolent Societies for the relief so promptly given in all the cases reported by the Nurses as in

urgent need of nourishment. The Nurses at present employed numbered twelve, including two from the Queen's Institute, and there were two superintendents.

AT the annual meeting of the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, at which the 100th Report was presented, a most satisfactory condition, both as to increased financial support and progress and efficiency of work, was presented. Special reference was made concerning the Nursing Department, which was reported to be becoming more and more efficient under the new curriculum, of systematical, theoretical, and practical teaching, thanks to the most able superintendence of Mrs. Strong.

IN October, 1887, a circular was issued announcing that Nurses who had worked for a year in a Hospital or Infirmary, and would pay an entrance fee of two shillings and sixpence, and an annual subscription of one shilling, might apply to be registered by a Committee under the superintendence of Mr. Henry C. Burdett, then, as now, an official of the Stock Exchange. This circular ended where it began, because Trained Nurses objected to place themselves under the control of an unprofessional body. Mr. Burdett, however, does not appear to profit by experience, because a circular which has been sent to us, with the request for our opinion upon it, has just been issued announcing the forthcoming publication of "Burdett's Official Nursing Directory." It is stated that this will be compiled "with the assistance of a small Committee of medical men and Matrons," but it is very significant that the names of these medical men and matrons are not given. No special term of training is necessary for those who aspire to have their names entered in this so-called Official Directory. We would warn our readers most strongly against giving any authority to any unprofessional person to publish their names in a list of Nurses, without knowing precisely with whom they are to be classed therein. Mr. Burdett states that he reserves to himself the right of excluding any name from the Directory, but it is evident that he has an equal power to place upon the list the name of any woman who appears to him to be suitable for enrolment, while no proof has been given as to his ability to discriminate as to the professional fitness of those whom he enrolls. We can only earnestly hope—for the sake of thoroughly Trained Nurses—that they will not permit their names to be placed upon such a list as that proposed. They have the Register of their Chartered Corporation—to which the new publication is clearly expected to be a competitor—and in due time they will doubtless have a Parliamentary Register of Nurses. Those Nurses, therefore, who receive the cir-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)