

to print this next week. The Paper contributed by Miss Mary Agnes Sniveley, Superintendent of the Toronto General Hospital, entitled, "Uniform Curriculum for Training Schools," will also appear.

THE Matrons of several of the large Poor Law Infirmaries have lately brought before the Guardians the desirability of bestowing the title of "Sister" upon the Charge Nurses. This appears to us an admirable step in advance, as such a title carries with it a well-defined professional status, and its use is conducive to good discipline in the ward. Many Guardians, however, especially those savouring of dissent, imagine the term "Sister" has a Popish ring, which arouses decided antagonism upon their part to the innovation—and these somewhat benighted persons are difficult to convince. Doubtless, however, the name having been adopted in several leading Infirmaries, it will speedily be accepted in others.

WE have received the Report of the Staffordshire Institution for Nurses, and are glad to observe it is continuing its successful career. We find—

"As years go on, the Committee have, if possible, increased confidence in Miss Shirley, their experienced Lady Superintendent. To her the success of the Institution is mainly due, through her judicious selection of Nurses, and her excellent influence over them, the fruits of which are seen in the good reports which they secure both from patients and their medical attendants. They desire to renew their testimony to her continued ability, fidelity, and zeal."

At the close of 1894 the Staff was as under:—

Private Nurses	...	...	...	84
District Nurses	...	...	...	19
Probationers	...	...	...	13
			Total	116

The earnings have reached the sum of £4,329 2s. 6d.

The record of cases is as follows:

Cases at full terms	...	...	...	638
Cases at reduced fees	...	...	...	28
Gratuitous cases	...	...	...	35

Total ... 701

Representing in all 3,207 weeks of nursing.

A sum of £243 10s. was distributed in January amongst the Nurses in bonuses.

We are glad to read that the sickness amongst the Nurses has not been excessive. Of the invalids five have been in the Home of Rest at Brighton, "where every Nurse is treated with the greatest kindness and care"—an incidental tribute to the good work of the Home, which we highly appreciate.

The MACDONALD MANUFACTURING COMPANY, 122, High Holborn (opposite Holborn Restaurant), TEETH SPECIALISTS, guarantee all their work. Reduced charges to Nurses and others of limited means. (See Supplement.)

Medical Matters.

CANCER HOUSES.



WE have previously, in these columns, referred to the curious facts recently published which go to show that cancer may be apparently transmitted from person to person directly or indirectly, and that certain houses exist in which people unconnected by any blood relationship are successively or simultaneously attacked by the same species of malignant disease. In fact, it is now becoming admitted amongst medical men that cancer may possibly be contagious, beginning with some local affection, and then by invasion of the system causing death. It is hardly necessary to point out that this view of cancer, which is entirely recent, involves the supposition that the cause of the cancerous growth is to be found in some parasitic or germ life, that, in fact, the old theory of cell growth, first localised and then systemic, must be modified to a large extent. There is, however, in this hypothesis one ground of congratulation which may be commended to persons nervous at the idea of occupying a house previously inhabited by a cancer patient. If cancer be contagious, if it be due to some germ life, there is a certainty that sooner or later the cause will be defined and the possibility is great that its cure will be discovered. Preventive medicine is making enormous strides in every direction, and it may be that this apparently trivial discovery of so-called cancer houses may prove to be the stepping-stone and clue to the discovery of the real cause and cure of what has hitherto defied all medical investigation and research. If the question, "Is cancer contagious?" be answered in the affirmative, we may take heart of grace, and believe that it will shortly be affirmed that cancer is curable.

HYSTERICAL INJURIES.

THERE are certain peculiarities about the injuries inflicted upon themselves by hysterical patients which are well worthy of remembrance by Nurses. As a general rule, these injuries are trivial. It is extremely rare for an hysterical case to cause herself real harm or pain. And the injuries are generally of a chronic character, such, for example, as blisters, slight burns, and ulcers. They are generally caused by the action of acids or alkalis, amongst which nitric acid and caustic potash are the most frequently employed. The finger nails also play a prominent

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)