

THE abject terror of the general public concerning infectious diseases, is one of the most sorry spectacles of the age, and a Nurse writes to us that she is not at all surprised at the discourtesy exhibited by hotel proprietors towards Nurses in uniform. She relates how, when lately nursing a patient in a London hotel, the women sleeping in the same corridor would make a hasty retreat into their various apartments rather than pass her in the passage, and how they would peep out of these apartments, and seeing the coast clear, scuttle along the corridor as if a certain gentleman, who shall be nameless, were after them.

If the public only knew it, there is great safety in the appearance of a Nurse in uniform in an hotel, because they may then be sure that she is in attendance upon some non-infectious case of disease. It is well known that should a case of scarlet fever or diphtheria break out in an hotel, which is certified by the medical attendant to be too ill for removal, that the first precaution taken by the hotel manager is to insist that her outward badge of office be at once put aside, and that the Nurse shall appear in private dress. No inconvenient questions are then put to him by other visitors. We know for a fact that this system is very often adopted to divert suspicion.

THE London Hospital has adopted the system already inaugurated in the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, of requiring their would-be probationers to go through a preliminary course of seven weeks' instruction in bed-making, bandaging, anatomy, hygiene, physiology and sick cookery, before being received into the wards for training. During this period a process of winnowing out the useless material takes place; the apt are chosen, the inapt are rejected, and it is hoped by this practical selection that only the fittest will survive to become Trained Nurses. A special home has been taken, furnished and set apart for these embryo probationers, of whom twenty only can be taken at one time. After their seven weeks' probation they still have to undergo the month's trial in the wards, so that a really efficient choice ought to be made.

THE value of peptonised foods for the sick and of malted preparations for infants and children, is widely known and recognised by the Nursing profession. But it is not so generally known that these intricate methods of dealing with food so as to render it more digestible, have filtered down to the animal world, and that "peptonated puppy food" is a recognised factor in the dietetics of wee doggies who have lost their

mothers, or whose gastric machinery is not equal to dealing with the more natural foods of puppydom.

THE Islington Board of Guardians is in a condition of revolt over the recommendations of the Local Government Board as to the re-organising and re-building of the Infirmary. The Board is anxious to enlarge and add to the accommodation of the present building, for which they have acquired additional land; but the Local Government Board refuses to sanction their scheme, and strongly recommends that a new Infirmary should be built at Bowes Park, some eight miles from the present site.

The conditions prevailing at the Infirmary at present are hopelessly inadequate and out-of-date, and the Guardians appear very anxious to remedy the evils as far as possible. But they deprecate the enormous expenditure entailed by the scheme Sir Walter Foster is anxious for them to adopt, and they naturally consider the hardship which would be entailed on the sick poor by their removal to a distance some eight miles beyond the parish. And they also think it would be cruel to the friends of the sick to put the Infirmary so far away that they could not get there in time in case of death.

The Guardians have a large work cut out for them, in setting their house in order. Miss Emily Jones, the Matron, is a highly-trained and certificated Nurse, and keenly interested in the difficult task of nursing under the present conditions. A certain number of Nurses are employed in the Infirmary, who have all had one year's experience in some recognised Hospital or Infirmary, according to the Local Government Board regulations. There are no probationers, and the Nurses can rely only on pauper help. There is no Night Superintendent. In the official Report it appears that on one night when an official visit was made, it was found that one Nurse had charge of eighty-eight beds.

The Report also says, "The accommodation for the Nurses is very unsatisfactory; the bedrooms are small, badly lighted and ill-ventilated, and, being situated next to the wards, the Nurses are frequently disturbed by patients coughing, &c. There is no mess-room for the Nurses, and they have to cook and prepare their own meals. The laundry is inadequate. The ward-kitchens are too small; the Nurses have converted them into sitting-rooms for themselves. There are no sculleries; the washing up, &c., is done in the lavatories."

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