

THERE has been an increase in the number of cases of small-pox at Gloucester. The last return shows ten more cases in three days than was the case the previous week.

WE have before commented upon the small amount of support accorded to the District Nurses' Association by the wealthy residents and visitors to Torquay. At the Annual Meeting of the Institution held recently, it was announced that the staff of Nurses was reduced some months since, and that unless subscriptions were promptly forthcoming there would have to be a further reduction in the number of Nurses for work among the poor. It would appear as if the Society cannot be properly organised, and its objects sufficiently brought before the public. Because it is well nigh incredible that the rich class of sick persons and others who find health and pleasure in this charming resort can be indifferent to the needs of the sick poor. It seems as if it must be want of thought or through ignorance that so important a work can be so much overlooked.

ANOTHER addition to the curiosities of advice on Nursing which appears in lay journals is the following, and which is under the signature of Sister—. After giving advice about the necessity of a daily sponge bath for the sick, she winds up by saying: "Open the window at the top as soon as the washing is over." Than which there could hardly be worse advice. Any common-sense person would know that at least half-an-hour should elapse after the bathing of a sick person before the windows should be opened.

WITH reference to the gloomy individuals who feel moved in the spirit to act as Hospital visitors, a patient has been writing:

"I well remember that whilst I had the privilege of being an in-patient, the only dull evening in the week was when a certain inestimable and well-meaning lady used to visit us and hold a short service in the dining-room, and by her expressions in her address and in prayer infer that we were all expecting to die and be buried before she had the opportunity of seeing us again. But the gloom thus engendered was soon dispelled and more than counterbalanced by the kindness of other ladies and gentlemen, who would call and ask questions in the most delicate manner possible, to ascertain if they could in any way render assistance to a patient after his or her discharge from the Hospital."

Hospital visitors need tact and cheerfulness in their ministrations to the sick, and people who are of a naturally gloomy, melancholy temperament, should certainly not elect to visit in Hospital wards where the patients are more or

less depressed and cast down, and need to be cheered and encouraged.

A MEDICAL Superintendent of an Insane Asylum said recently, "Quite apart from the spiritual effect religious services may have on our patients, I find them most beneficial in soothing and tranquilising their minds. In addition to the usual Sunday Service, I have established an evening song service, and find it is much appreciated. Sunday in an Asylum is a very lazy day, and, unless something is done to take up our patients' time and attention, they tend to become irritable and quarrelsome."

AMONG the gifts to a Scotch District Nursing Association we recently saw among the items a donation of thirteen hats from a local milliner. And no doubt the present was extremely appreciated. So many people send clothing and boots, and yet, after all, headgear is almost equally important. These "gifts in kind" are admirable, and of course the middleman's profit being absent, they do not entail so much expense on the donors, although the gifts in themselves are just as valuable to the recipients.

In connection with this we are reminded of more than one case where clockmakers elect to keep the clocks of a Hospital in going order free of charge. In this way they are able in a valuable way to help Institutions in which they are interested, and to benefit the coffers by just so much as their work is worth.

No man can say he cannot afford to help a Hospital so long as he can place at its disposal a small part of his time and the knowledge of his craft. A gardener can often spare a day to "tidy up" an Infirmary or Hospital garden, while local florists, without in any way impoverishing themselves, can easily spare a few bedding-out plants and "roots" which, put in the beds of the Institution, or potted for the wards, are a source of infinite pleasure to patients and staff.

At those times, when gardens are thinned out and cuttings taken, Matrons and Sisters of Hospitals, sometimes by a little judicious begging, obtain results which make the window-sills and plots even of London Hospitals very gay indeed. While in the country, by using such arts of persuasion, they can easily transform the gardens of some Hospitals, which are very wildernesses of dreariness, into veritable "gardens fair," to delight the eyes and refresh the senses of convalescing patients and weary Nurses.

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