

A WARD at the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, is to be called the Eleanor C. and William J. Smyly Ward, in recognition of the eminent services rendered to the Hospital during his term of office by Dr. and Mrs. Smyly.

THE Longford Guardians will have to submit to the Local Government Board's repeated recommendations that a trained night Nurse be appointed to the Infirmary. And they might as well submit gracefully.

THE *Nursing World* (America) is full of sympathy on the subject of organisation amongst Nurses. The Editor says:—

"We are glad to note the growing tendency to organisation among trained Nurses. It is becoming more apparent every day to the rank and file of the profession that organisation for mutual protection and improvement is a necessity to success. In the larger cities there are now many graduate Nurses' Associations, Alumnae Associations, and clubs of various kinds, having for their aim the co-operation of effort for securing the benefits justly due to the trained Nurse.

At the regular meetings of these clubs, or associations, questions relating to the welfare of members are freely discussed; schedules of fees are formulated; Nurses' Directories are established, and, through the courtesies of local physicians, practical lectures on Nursing and kindred branches are delivered. Many of the members submit articles, report interesting cases, and lay before the membership such hints in methods of working as they have found useful in actual life.

All this is the outcome of careful thought and faithful execution on the part of Training School Superintendents and other leaders in the Nursing world, and we sincerely hope the good work may go on until every member of this vast body of useful labourers shall be numbered in some regular Association."

We have always maintained that no good organisation of Nurses can take place excepting in co-operation with the Superintendents of our Training Schools and Hospitals. The proposed constitution of the Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association, as at present suggested, is therefore doomed to failure, owing to the lack of the support of Nurses imbued with *esprit de corps* and loyalty. Nothing but disunion and disorganisation can be the result in our Training Schools if the present policy of a few medical men attempting to run the Association to the exclusion of the leading Matrons from its Councils is persisted in. The best trained Nurses will not join the Association until this policy is abandoned once and for all. Imagine the General Medical Council composed of "first year's men," and an L.S.A. President of the College of Physicians!

Medical Matters.

THE USE OF BLEEDING.



THERE are many signs that the use of bleeding in the treatment of disease, will, in the near future, once more take a prominent place. It is generally known that, some seventy years ago, a great revulsion of feeling and of practice set in amongst the medical profession, concerning the usefulness and advisability of this measure. For hundreds of years previously, the abstraction of blood had been what might fairly have been called the stock method of medical treatment. It was, for example, invariably used when patients were supposed to have "too much blood," or to be suffering from inflammation of any kind, or when inflammation was supposed to be impending; or when this change was of an acute or of a chronic character; and even in cases in which there were no signs of disease at all; and as a preventive, in fact, as well as a curative agent. The history of former days abounds with accounts of persons who went to the barber-surgeon to be "blooded" nearly as regularly as they went to have their hair cut, and with about as much concern. There can be no doubt that, especially in the rural districts, the treatment was of immense benefit. Our ancestors were not teased by the telegraph or the telephone; nor were their nervous systems shattered by indulgence in cheap excursion trains. Frivolities like Bank Holidays found no place in their placid lives; and the bicycle had not arrived to incite them to take unnecessary exercise. To add to all these disadvantages they ate an amount of beef and drank an amount of beer which modern science has proved to be appallingly detrimental to the tissues of the human frame. As a natural result, in the expressive language of the time, they "made too much blood," and consequently it was not only of practical value, but from a scientific point of view it was wise, that they should lose from time to time some of that superabundant fluid. But the tide of science swept away the lancet and the cupping-glass, on the ground that they were misused and abused; and the disfavour into which the practice of blood-letting fell, deepened as the excitements and stress of modern life

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