

Moonsbime.

THE "Röntgen Rays" exhibition has perhaps had its day as a popular performance. People are now warned that a repetition of its demonstrations is not unattended with drawbacks. A gentleman, who has often shown the beauty of the arrangement of the bones *in situ* by placing one of his hands within the radius of the electrical rays, has lost all the nails of the fingers of that hand. And a writer in one of the medical journals states that, in the case of patients whose heads have been subjected to the influences of the rays, the hair has either been turned white or has fallen out entirely. These results are apparently due to the electrical potency of what physicists call the ultra-violet rays of the spectrum, although, at present, their action is by no means thoroughly understood. A suggestion is made that these rays exist in the moonlight, and to their effect, observed by earlier generations, is due the popular superstition that people who habitually sleep in the open air, or in the direct rays of the moon, have their reason more or less seriously affected and their brain power considerably impaired. Ninon de l'Enclos, who was a young beauty at sixty, had her superstition in the fancy that nothing was more fatal to her complexion than moonlight.

Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum.

THE Annual Report of the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum is more than usually interesting and satisfactory, especially with regard to the nursing arrangements. The new Pavilions are open and furnished, and the Asylum now accommodates 770 patients. During the time of the building of the new Nurses' Home, part of the staff had to be accommodated in a hired house; but the sleeping portion of the Nursing Home is now ready and occupied, although the sitting and recreation rooms are still in the hands of the contractor.

The Managers state that they have every reason to be satisfied with the revised Nursing arrangements, and the establishment of the training-school for Probationers. They have received much fewer resignations than under the old *regimé*, and have been able to secure candidates of good social position from different parts of the country; to this may be attributable the satisfactory tone which marks the Nursing arrangements generally. During the year, applications have been received from 157 candidates for the office of Probationer, out of these, 48 have been appointed, 33 of whom

still remain; of the seventeen who have not continued, seven have been required at home, five have left at the expiration of the two months' trial, being considered unsuitable for the profession, and three have left on account of ill-health.

Owing to the difficulty experienced in getting satisfactory Staff Nurses on the opening of the New Wards, the Managers, with the Local Government Board's consent, filled up the existing vacancies with Probationer Nurses, and, after six months' experience, they have been able to report to the Board that the arrangement has worked most satisfactorily.

Somewhat *naïvely* the Report states that "an improved dietary scale" for the Nurses has been much appreciated by these officers.

Solicitous for the comfort of the Nurses the Managers appealed to the Local Government Board for permission to send any of the Nurses suffering from infectious diseases to the London Fever Hospital, instead of to the Metropolitan Asylums Board's Hospital, but this request was refused.

The Managers have received from the Proprietors of Mudies' Library, a present of 100 volumes of works of Biography, Travel, and Novels, and Periodicals for the use of the Nurses and inmates, for which they were exceedingly grateful.

The Managers have decided in favour of the scheme, and have signed a petition to Parliament approving of the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Bill, under which in order to secure certainty of Superannuation for deserving Officials, all will be required to contribute to a special Fund a certain percentage from their salaries.

The dietary for the patients is excellent, and the regulations as to the proportions to be used in making tea, cocoa, stew, and beef-tea, are so explicit and practical that we append the table.

Tea to consist of Tea 2 ozs., Sugar 4 ozs., Milk 1 pint, Water 7 pints.
 Cocoa to consist of Cocoa 8 ozs., Sugar 4 ozs., Milk 1 pint, Water 7 pints.
 Light Pudding: Rice, Tapioca or Sago, 2 ozs., Sugar $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz., 1 Egg, Milk $\frac{1}{2}$ -pint; Baked.
 Beef Tea to contain $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. Beef to the pint.
 Fish to be boiled five times a week, fried twice a week.
 Meat in full diet: Beef twice weekly, Mutton five times, alternately boiled and roasted.
 Stew to contain in a gallon: Mutton (Necks) 48 ozs., Scotch Barley 12 ozs.
 The Meat to be left in and served with it in equal proportions.
 Cocoa may be substituted for Tea by special order of the Medical Officer.

We are pleased to observe that the work of Miss Beatrice Sisley, at the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum, has been recognised by the Board

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