

From October 1st next, a new arrangement will come into force at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, with regard to the payment of the junior staff. The junior house-surgeons and physicians, who are non-resident, will receive £25 each, and the senior house-physicians and surgeons, who are resident, will be paid at the rate of £80 a year, this being considered the equivalent of board in the residential college attached to the Hospital. The resident midwifery assistant and the ophthalmic house-surgeon will also be paid a salary of £80 a year, whilst the senior and junior anaesthetists will receive £120 and £100 a year respectively. The payment made in the past has been merely an honorarium, and the new arrangement has been made to help those promising students whose lack of means prohibited them from applying for the House posts. This is a step in the right direction.

The Medical Officer of Health for Gloucester desires all the papers that gave reports of the small-pox epidemic there, to give equal publicity to the fact that the town has now a clean bill of health. It has been decided to construct a new Infectious Diseases Hospital, and a site has been purchased for £3,500.

Some discussion arose at the last meeting of the Exeter Guardians over the method of electing selected Nurses for the Infirmary. The Management Committee selected from the applications six couples for the post of male and female Nurse, who attended before the Board and replied to questions put through the Governor. The Governor ruled that the election must be by show of hands, and he put the names of a Mr. and Mrs. Forbes first, when 15 votes were secured by them, and this being the majority of those present they were declared to be duly elected.

At the last annual demonstration of the Derbyshire Friendly Societies, a resolution was supported asking for help for special Hospitals and Convalescent Homes for the benefit of members of Friendly Societies when suffering from accident or disease.

At the weekly meeting of the Belfast Royal Hospital, a suggestion was made that some restriction should be placed on the free admission and treatment of patients whose employers did not contribute to the funds of the Hospital. After some discussion, in which it was admitted that in some cases an unfair advantage had been taken of the Hospital as a purely charitable Institution, it was decided to take no action in the matter.

Last Saturday ninety-six cases of fever were admitted to the Hospitals of the Asylums Board from various parts of the metropolis. There were then 4,118 beds occupied in the nine Hospitals of the managers. Of these 3,413 are filled by scarlet fever patients, 590 by diphtheria cases, and 115 by patients suffering from enteric fever. On the Hospital ships at Long Reach there were thirteen small-pox cases.

Swansea is rejoicing in the benefit accruing to the Swansea Hospital from a legacy of £5,000, under the will of the Rev. C. W. Grove, as an absolute gift. The rev. gentleman, who was extremely wealthy, acted as vicar of a parish near Tewkesbury, where he spent considerably more than the income of the living in charitable work within the parish.

## Our Foreign Letter.

IN AN ITALIAN HOSPITAL.

PAGES FROM AN ENGLISHWOMAN'S DIARY.

(Continued.)

May 3rd, 1893.—How apparently limitless are one's powers of adaptation! I used to object so much to what I termed "people's chamelionizings," thinking it betokened pure lack of individuality, but I see now it is often a moral necessity to modify one's colours; if one did not, to a certain extent, adapt oneself to one's surroundings one would be eliminated.

I am getting so adapted to mine that I feel I must soon uproot myself—not to become definitely of the colour environing me, viz., of *laissez aller*. Æsthetically, it appeals too much to me—the wonderful picturesqueness of the individual and of his framework. To modernise that lovely old ward of the chronics, with its quiet oratory, where those who can crawl, doze or pray so happily, to replace it with ugly *padiglione* (block wards), like those at Bonifazio, Florence, seems artistic vandalism! Only the conviction that hygienically the patients would reap benefit can make the idea tolerable.

Then, to eliminate still further many of the ancient customs and habits, especially the religious ones, that, too, has a flavour of Northern barbarism. They are so happy in their comparative freedom; to have everything cut and dry and reeled would take away so much of the *sugo* (joy?) of existence. But yet one knows that precision and order and method are important factors in a cure, and therefore I know that I must uproot myself, and go to a well-ordered Hospital, where I can learn exactly what are the points in which we fail here, and, if possible, how to amend them.

I believe I now know the ground here thoroughly, and so can hope to judge which are the things which really are harmful to the patients, and so ought to be changed, and which are harmless differences due to national ideas and habits. Personally, I never could see why one should wish Italians to become like English, any more than one should wish English to turn into Italians. Imagine oneself of a third nationality, or, better still, a man from Mars, and think if then one would pick out any one nation on which to model all others. We each have our strong points, as well as our weak ones. But I believe Italians who have visited English Hospitals agree that nursing here is not anywhere near the English standard. This is because they have had no Florence Nightingale—no Italian woman of genius has yet given herself to the apostleship of Nursing. Individual nuns have done much good work, and are doing it, but they are handicapped by regulations (with one or two exceptions of modern French or English orders) which keep them virtually stationary at a standpoint where science was when their grandparents' contemporaries formed the order.

We English, meanwhile, in our horror at "Sairey Gamps" and our all-but absence of Nun-Nurses, have thrown an infinity of energy into the matter, and so have undoubtedly attained a point of perfection which we may desire Italians to imitate.

May 5th.—I told my chief I must leave, and the reason. He only partially understood—that is to say,

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