

doubt, been the result of overwork and anxiety of the mind. The unfortunate lady was on a visit to her father, the Rev. J. A. Manning, vicar of Canewdon, near Bocheford, has been suffering much of late from insomnia. It is stated that she purchased some strychnine from a local chemist, stating that she wanted it for killing mice. On a young lady going to her in her bedroom, she observed, "I have taken it," and expired almost immediately. A bottle labelled "poison" was found in her pocket.

Mrs. Stubbs has for some years been the proprietress of a Home Hospital in Beaumont Street, W., and we have mentioned before, in these columns, the very great responsibility of such a position, even when the duties are undertaken by a thoroughly qualified Nurse. How much greater must this responsibility be to a conscientious untrained woman? It is to be hoped that the time is not far distant when the medical profession will discourage the institution of Nursing lodging-houses, by placing the patients in Homes, the first regulation of which shall be—that the Lady Superintendent shall be a highly-qualified Nurse.

It has been said that the zeal of the lady collectors who take so prominent a part in helping local charities by street collections is, in some towns and cities, of so overpowering a nature that it is only the cyclists who run the least chance of escaping from their blandishments. Indeed, so many susceptible and timid citizens who are not sufficiently generous as to wish to contribute their charitable mite, have taken refuge on bicycles when the streets of their town are given up to Sunday, Saturday, or any other "collections," that it has been suggested that a corps of eager lady cyclists should be organised to give pursuit to these parsimonious "wheelmen," and demand their tribute while they are flattering themselves on a free escape!

In a speech made by the chairman of a Hospital to a body of the Nurses, he referred to a passage in Ruskin's "Sesame and Lilies," in which the author says that idleness and cruelty are especially abhorred by God. In contrast to these qualities the speaker said that diligence and mercy were the attributes of the capable Nurse, and it is thus to be inferred that the occupation of Nursing is especially blessed.

DURING the past week three serious complaints as to the methods of management in the London Hospital have been brought before the public. At an inquest on a child of two years old, with

disease of the left hip joint, medical evidence was given to show that at the London Hospital the *right* leg was put in bandages and splints. The Coroner of the district, who on all occasions deprecates any evidence which tends to unpleasant disclosures as to this Hospital, remarked "Binding the other leg would have made no difference." If this be so it seems rather a waste of time to apply the elaborate extensions and splints which are considered necessary in hip cases.

Further on, when the mother complained of the way in which her child had been treated, and of her unhappiness in the wards, the Coroner said, "You do not expect us to believe it? You must be careful what you say against a Hospital." Such an expression of opinion from a Coroner is unwarranted. The mother had a perfect right to bring any charge she wished against the Hospital. It could easily have been disproved if not accurate. But to stifle evidence in this way is calculated to injure the Hospital this particular Coroner does so much to protect.

THE *Morning* newspaper publishes a letter of complaint from a man respecting the treatment of his little daughter, who was a patient at the London. His allegations of the peremptory way in which the child, in a hopeless and almost dying condition, was sent from the Hospital, and his description of the bed-sores from which she was suffering, call for investigation.

That these constant complaints against the management of a public institution must have some reason, we must maintain. It would be well, therefore, that the Committee of the London Hospital should discard their somewhat autocratic attitude, and set themselves to improve the system of internal management. It may be that the appointment of a fully-qualified or permanent resident Medical Officer in our large hospitals would be found of advantage. This arrangement only ceased to exist at the London Hospital in 1874, and the fact that the majority of the Honorary Staff live in the West End—miles from the Hospital—and that they cannot visit the hospital daily, necessitates much of the treatment of the patients falling into the hands of the young house-surgeons and physicians. This a point in the management that it would be well for the Committee to consider, for the welfare and safety of the patients. The Honorary Staff of a large hospital should be within immediate call, or should be represented by a permanent, thoroughly qualified resident Medical Officer, to whom all serious cases might be referred by his juniors.

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