

A LEADING firm in Shields has decided to engage a trained Nurse who will devote her time entirely to the care of the wives of the men employed by this generous firm. The expense, which will amount to £150 per annum, is to be borne entirely by the heads of the firm.

THE conduct of the Whiteparish District Council with regard to the parish Nurse, Nurse Austin, is to say the least of it, very unsatisfactory. It appears that there has been friction for some time past between Dr. Keys-Wells and this Nurse, but he has never brought any definite evidence of her unfitness for her position. It appeared as if the trouble was at an end, and so recently as three weeks ago the doctor stated that "she was perfectly suitable for her position." But he continued to speak mysteriously about her, without, however, formulating any charges. Her resignation was asked for, but she declined to send it in unless a definite reason were given her. Several of the Council supported her, and stated that it was their duty to protect her from anonymous accusations.

Dr. Keys-Wells said at the last meeting "that he was in possession of information concerning Nurse Austin which, however, he could not give in public." If he cannot give the information in public he should not mention the matter in public. As the matter now stands, Nurse Austin rests under a serious imputation, which, because it is, as it were, anonymous and unformulated, she cannot refute. But, all the same, she has been asked to resign without being given the opportunity of clearing herself.

In all tribunals, save the Inquisition, the accused has always been informed for what crime he is being tried. The Whiteparish Parish Council, aided by Mr. W. Lawrence, M.P., the Chairman, and by Dr. Keys-Wells, have reverted to the methods of the Inquisition, and have established their right to try and condemn a woman unheard and undefended. We shall expect some of the women in the parish to insist on fair play for the Nurse. We know nothing of her. She may be right or she may be utterly in the wrong. But the method of her trial is unwarrantable and unjustifiable.

THE good work done at the County and City of Cork Hospital for Women and Children is well known, and the report for 1895 shows the usual good result. The daily average number of patients treated is over 54. But we are sorry to see that the Hospital adheres to the old-

fashioned plan of making a profit out of the private Nurses supplied to the public.

Miss Baxter, the Lady Superintendent, is very popular, and presides over a very efficient Nursing Staff. She has a Special Fund of her own, to which she is very successful in getting contributions, having obtained £223 in the past year for the benefit of the Hospital.

The "sturdy beggar," Leo, the famous Hospital dog, has been working hard for his happy home, and has been successful in making his appealing barks reach the hearts of subscribers. "Leo" always makes a great profession of his fear, lest he might be sold to aid the funds of his Hospital. But this is the only point on which he is not quite sincere. In reality he knows that nothing would induce the Hospital to put him up to auction. But it is a nice little trump card for him to play when he feels in despair as to the Hospital banking account.

We are pleased to see that quite a menagerie of creatures has been led by Leo's example to take an interest in this excellent Hospital. Among the contributors are several "black cats," a Manx cat, a canary; while a Killarney pig has collected £4, and a Glengariff pig has melted hearts to the extent of £1 13s. 4d. It is an admirable idea to enlist the sympathies and help of our dumb friends in relieving the necessities and pains of the "humans."

Much regret has been felt in Johannesburg at the death in Hospital of Nurse Ellen Smith, who arrived in the town from England only last February, being one of the lay Nurses engaged by Dr. van Mierkerk. The typhoid fever epidemic was at its height when Nurse Smith arrived, and she contracted it almost immediately, dying after two months' illness.

THE *Daily Mail* tells the story of an American visiting the Houses of Parliament for the first time, and being immensely struck by the semi-detached buildings of St. Thomas's Hospital, said to the M.P., who was entertaining him: "These, I suppose, are the town houses of your principal aristocracy," and when he was enlightened as to the use of these buildings, he evidently thought them much too good for the purpose.

At the Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia a three years' course of training is enforced.

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