

addition, to be possibly the precursor or many of a similar kind. The motive power of the "Motor Landau" is petroleum, but the carriage is a great improvement in type upon the somewhat ungainly-looking ordinary motor cars, as it is an elegant and sumptuous vehicle in which any gentlewoman might take her ride amongst the *élite* of fashion in the Park. The engineering arrangements are completely concealed from view, and thick solid india-rubber tyres abolish all vibration; while by means of a patent exhaust chamber, the smell and heat of the engine are rendered innocuous, so that the vehicle would be peculiarly fit for the removal of invalids and patients. We cannot say we view with pleasure the possible departure of the noble animal, the horse, and its necessary accompaniments, from the Lord Mayor's Show; but if it is thus to be, it is better that their supplanters shall be worthy of the civic pageant; and we are bound to say that the vehicle which has been the first of the innovators, whilst perhaps imperfect in itself, shows that it is capable in skilled hands of becoming a useful, as well as an ornamental means of locomotion.

### Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act.

WE are glad to learn that the Matrons of the Metropolitan Poor Law Infirmaries are co-operating to bring their objections, from the Nurses' point of view, concerning the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, before Parliament. Meetings have been held, and on Tuesday, the 17th inst., at the invitation of Miss Vincent, Matron of St. Marylebone Infirmary, the subject will be further discussed, especially dealing with the effect such legislation is likely to exercise on the work of trained Nurses in Poor Law Infirmaries. We congratulate the Matrons on their determination to protest against the Act as it stands, and hope, by their united efforts, valuable amendments may be carried when it again comes before the House of Commons.

### "Lungers."

IN Los Angeles, California, where so many consumptives and persons with diseased and delicate lungs are sent, they are termed generically "lungers," and much interest is displayed by the victims in discovering how much more are the lungs of others affected than are their own. After making friends with other patients, and delicately probing for information, they often complacently remark, "Oh, poor fellow, he

is much worse than I am, for he has only half a lung while my doctor says I have nearly one whole one left!" The climate of Los Angeles is warm and mild, and for two to three months the patients sent there appear to thrive. But the climate tends to be relaxing and enervating, and the marked improvement so noticeable at first in most cases fails to be maintained.

### Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)



It is reported that the resignation of Miss Alice Ravenhill, the Secretary, has been accepted by the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association. Miss Ravenhill has just returned to duty after eight months' leave of absence.

The members are generally of opinion that in appointing a Secretary upon whom devolves such important duties, a lady should be selected who has been trained and qualified for such an important position. She should have gained practical experience in office work, the conduct of public meetings, the taking of Minutes, and the keeping of accounts, and should be able to write shorthand and to typewrite. Indeed, no woman who does not possess these qualifications has any right to offer herself for such a position. Such work has to be done, and if the Secretary does not possess the necessary experience and qualifications, the Association has to incur quite unnecessary expense by providing and paying extra workers to perform these duties.

### THE REGISTRATION OF MENTAL NURSES.

Within the last few years the necessity of providing nursing for those sick in mind, as well as for those sick in body, has made itself felt. In consequence, in many of our leading public Asylums for the Insane, great advances have been made (1) in the status of those persons selected as attendants on lunatics; and (2) a beginning has been made to give these attendants the rudiments of a theoretical education on a scientific basis. So far, so good. The result of these efforts has naturally attracted many educated women to enter both public and private Asylums as attendants, and as the necessity for nursing has become recognised by the Medical Superintendents and Matrons of these Institutions, the term "lunatic attendant" is being merged into that of "Mental Nurse," and there is no doubt that it is mental Nurses who, in the future, will be required to attend on the unfortunate persons suffering from various diseases of the brain. A step further and we find—following in the steps of the trained Nurse—lunatic attendants are anxious for co-operation, for efficient education, and for some measure of legal status; and in this laudable desire we are heartily in sympathy with them. But hasty and inefficient legislation will inevitably prove disastrous to lunatic attendants, and, if ill-considered, also injurious to thoroughly-trained Nurses, and any at-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)