

At the meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board the following wise resolution was moved by Mr. J. H. Brass:—"That, in the opinion of the managers, it is desirable that the bodies of patients dying of small-pox at the Board's Small-pox Hospitals should be cremated in all cases where the consent of the nearest relatives of such patients can be obtained, and that the Works Committee be directed to give instructions for the preparation of plans of a suitable crematorium to be erected in connexion with the proposed small-pox hospital at Joyce Green, and to submit such plans to the managers for approval and transmission to the Local Government Board." Although the motion was seconded by Sir Douglas Galton, we regret that it was not passed by the Board. Mr. Brass has expressed his decision to bring the matter again before the next meeting, when it is to be hoped that it will be passed.

The Rev. Henry Seymour, chairman of the Monthly Board of the General Hospital, Nottingham, is a very enlightened man, and it is quite in sympathy with his liberal views to have made a special point of inviting the lady governors to attend an important meeting which was lately held to discuss the proposed extension of the hospital.

The main block of the hospital was built in 1782, and contained about 60 beds, the population of the town and county at that time being about 100,000. In 1854 the old building was raised a storey, and in 1878 the new surgical wing, adjoining Park Row, was added, increasing the beds, with the temporary isolation hospital, to 175, which is their present number. The population of the town and county is now estimated at about 500,000. The hospital is always practically full, and much delay frequently and necessarily occurs in the admission of patients who require treatment.

The Committee appointed to consider the rebuilding scheme suggest the erection of entirely new buildings, with the exception of the existing accident wards in Park Row. But if funds are not forthcoming, it is proposed to erect new wings of a most approved construction, using the present building for administrative purposes. At present a large number of the nurses sleep in small houses, which are most unsuitable quarters for them, and the sleeping accommodation for the staff generally in the hospital is very unsatisfactory and inadequate.

*Truth* has at last called attention, under the heading of "A Plague-stricken Asylum," to the scandal of overcrowding and outbreaks of beri-beri at the Richmond Lunatic Asylum, Dublin. There is accommodation for 1,000 patients in this institution, and 1,700 unfortunate wretches are constantly jammed into it. The offensive and malignant disease known as beri-beri has never appeared spontaneously elsewhere in the United Kingdom, and is only prevalent in the most filthy and densely populated cities of the far East. The disease is the scourge of the slums of Chinese towns, and is undoubtedly due to overcrowding. We re-echo the hope that the result of the *exposé* of this scandal by *Truth* will be that the Irish administration will at last be called to account for what is little better than criminal negligence.

## Professional Reviews.

"THE Narrative of my Experience as a Volunteer Nurse," by Anne Thacker, published by Messrs. Abbott Jones & Co., price 3s. 6d., is an interesting account of the work done by a lady in the Franco-Prussian War.

Miss Thacker's sympathies for the sick and wounded in war had been aroused ever since the Crimean War, when the officer to whom she was engaged to be married caught cold in the trenches, and having no one to nurse him, contracted an illness which speedily killed him.

When war was declared between France and Germany, Miss Thacker offered her services as a nurse, although untrained, to the Society for the Relief of the Sick and Wounded Soldiers, but she was told that no more nurses were wanted, and that only a few who had had hospital training were to be sent.

The accounts in the daily papers, however, continued most distressing, and soldiers were said to be dying with no one at hand to give them so much as a drop of water. Miss Thacker was so moved by these descriptions that she tells us "I was eager to do something to relieve this suffering, and determined not to wait another day, but to start for Germany, and offer my services to be sent into France where more danger would be, and where few German ladies would care to go."

Miss Thacker obtained permission to work in the Garrison Lazarette under the St. Cloud Sisters. After a varied and interesting experience in this hospital, Miss Thacker tells us that she "began to long for independence and more work. As for the Military Lazarette, there were really sisters enough to do the work. By this time I had learnt a great deal, and I made up my mind to go where nurses were wanted."

After this we find her volunteering for work in a tent hospital at Cologne, and her offer was accepted, but the hospital did not arrive as soon as was expected, and the weather was so inclement that it would have been impossible to use it. She therefore worked on at the town hospital. When at last the work of the great tent hospital was organised, we are told that Miss Thacker "set herself to work with an energy which knew no bounds."

At the close of the war her services were recognised by the Emperor William I. by the gift of the Iron Cross and a memorial medal. King Louis II. of Bavaria presented her with the First Class Cross of Merit, and King George of Saxony with a similar cross. Miss Thacker's services, though quietly and unostentatiously rendered, were much appreciated. The Empress Frederick has notified her acceptance of a copy of "A Volunteer Nurse."

We hope that the volume will find a place on the bookshelves of many nurses, beside the Lives of Agnes Jones, Sister Dora, and other noble members of the nursing profession.

The National Union of Women Workers has published a valuable little tract entitled, "Hints for District Visitors (Legal Difficulties of the Poor)," by Frank Tillyard, B.A., of the Middle Temple, barrister-at-law. In it the difficulties to which the poor are specially liable, the methods of meeting them, and the

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