

BLUE BEARDS.

THE habit of wearing beards, in vogue amongst some physicians and surgeons is one which is open to much criticism, and it is obvious that it is fraught with a considerable amount of danger to their patients. If, however, they feel constrained to cling to these undesirable appendages, the least they can do is to attend to their efficient sterilisation, before performing an operation, or dressing a wound. In our opinion it would simplify matters considerably if all medical men were clean-shaven. We learn that in America physicians who have beards protect them with gauze guards, and do not allow them to come near to a wound. It is to be hoped that these guards are not made of sal alem-broth gauze, or a nervous patient might on entering the operating theatre encounter an apparition not calculated to inspire her with confidence in the surgeon in attendance, and unpleasantly suggestive of a certain bogey of her childhood—to wit, Mr. Blue Beard.

TOOTHLESS ORPHANS.

WE understand that persons answering to the above description were in demand the other day at the India Office, when nurses were required for temporary duty amongst the plague-stricken patients in India. Several nurses who were ready, and anxious, to put their services at the disposal of the Government, were prevented from doing so, even after being accepted by the medical authorities, because their mothers, who presumably would have offered no objections if their sons had been ordered abroad for active service, threatened to die on the spot, if their daughters volunteered to nurse the plague. It is surely time that British mothers realised that their daughters, as well as their sons, are public servants, and that it is an honour for them to be selected for work of such national importance. However this may be, the nurses who had no parents to consult were those who could say definitely that they were willing to go, and who consequently had the best chance of being selected. Irreproachable teeth, the gift of nature, or the dentist, are apparently appreciated by the India Office. At all events, candidates were required to have their teeth in perfect order as a necessary qualification for selection. One plucky candidate had ten teeth extracted and a new set put in within a week, and came up smiling at the end of the time. We think she deserved the honour conferred upon her in her selection, and has proved that she is possessed of the pluck which will be called into requisition in the work which is before her.

NON-SUBSCRIBING GOVERNORS.

AT the annual general meeting of the Boscombe Hospital and Provident Dispensary the chairman, Sir John Thursby, Bart., in moving the adoption of the report, expressed a wish that the poorer classes would give some donation to the hospital, if only one or two shillings.

Mr. Wyatt, in speaking to the report, said he was sorry to have to make the same remarks which he made some three or four years ago. He, too, would like to see more contributed by the poorer classes, but, as he had before pointed out, many members of the committee paid no subscription. It was painful for him to comment on it in the presence of some of them, but he thought it was the first duty of those on a committee to subscribe to the funds of the institution. He considered that those who gave the money should have a voice in spending it. He also considered that people who came to the meeting, without being subscribers, should not be allowed to vote. Mr. Wyatt, upon being pressed to support his statement, said that he had made it as a matter of principle, that he had no wish to be unpleasant, and that he would be quite willing to go through the list with the secretary after the meeting, but this course being objected to, he mentioned eight names.

We must say we consider that if the facts of the case are as reported above, this gentleman only performed a very disagreeable public duty in drawing attention to the matter. Reformers usually receive scant thanks for taking the initiative, but in our opinion Mr. Wyatt's contention, that the people who give the money should have a voice in spending it, is a sound one, and, therefore, the committees of public institutions should be drawn from the ranks of the subscribers. We hope this gentleman's courageous outspoken criticism, made manifestly in no unkindly spirit, but in the honest desire for the well-being of the institution, may be productive of good.

A LUCKY HOSPITAL.

AT St. Thomas's Hospital a large space will be available for seats to view the Royal procession approaching and passing over Westminster Bridge, on June 22nd, and the Committee are considering the best means of securing the greatest benefit to the funds of the institution, which greatly need augmenting at the present time.

DELICIOUS	MAZAWATTEE	TEA
DELICIOUS	MAZAWATTEE	TEA
DELICIOUS	MAZAWATTEE	TEA
DELICIOUS	MAZAWATTEE	TEA
DELICIOUS	MAZAWATTEE	TEA

A Guarantee of Purity.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)