

London, are giving their cordial support to the proposal to establish an artists' home on the Riviera. This will partake to a large extent of the character of a private hygienic hotel, and although a nominal entrance fee will be charged, admission will be granted free to those artists—using the term in its widest sense—whose circumstances are such as to preclude them from making any payment.

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The following resolutions were passed unanimously at the recent meeting of the General Committee of the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, upon the retirement—after forty years' service on the staff—of the eminent surgeon, Mr. John St. S. Wilders:—(1) "That the Committee accept with regret the resignation of Mr. John St. S. Wilders, Senior Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital, and desire to place on record their high sense of the services he has rendered to the Institution. For nearly forty years Mr. Wilders has been on the staff, first as an assistant House Surgeon and subsequently for twenty-eight years as an Honorary Officer. During all that lengthy period he has served the Hospital with fidelity and zeal, ever working in harmony with his professional and lay colleagues. This Committee, on behalf of the Hospital, herewith tender to Mr. Wilders their grateful thanks, and their hopes that by his retirement from active work his health will be restored and his life long preserved." (2) "That this Committee recommend to the Governors, at their annual meeting, the appointment of Mr. Wilders to the high and honourable position of Consulting Surgeon to this Institution, and that a copy of the foregoing be suitably engrossed and signed by the members of the General Committee and the Secretary and General Superintendent, and presented to Mr. Wilders."

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We notice that Sir Henry E. Roscoe, F.R.S., D.C.L. has accepted the post of English adviser of the Scientific Department of Liebig's Extract of Meat Company, Limited—a further guarantee of the excellence of the preparations of this old-established Company.

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The 226th anniversary the other day of the founding of the oldest Military Hospital in Europe, the Hotel des Invalides, by the Grand Monarque, has suggested to a French paper a brief sketch of its origin and history. Before the reign of Henry IV. soldiers incapacitated by wounds, sickness, or age were compelled to resort to either brigandage or begging for their existence. Those who were very lucky might be taken as lay brothers into a monastery. Henry IV. established the Hospital of the Oursine, where old soldiers admitted by his order were to be clothed, fed, and cared for. In 1634, Louis XIII., finding this building too small, removed it to Bicetre, which became known afterwards as the barrack of St. Louis. In 1670 Louis XIV. decided to found the Invalides, which was first opened in 1674, but the dome was not finished for another thirty years. Of late years the lot of the pensioners has been much improved, and a special class has been formed of those old soldiers who could not receive proper care and attention from their own families. The officers are divided into two classes of lay brothers, the higher of whom enjoy the privilege of having their meals in their own apartments. At present there are five hundred pensioners in the Invalides.

Professional Reviews.

NURSES A LA MODE.

It may be beneficial to a community of workers to see themselves as others see them, but we venture to think that the description of "Nurses à la Mode," as presented to the public by Lady Priestley in this month's *Nineteenth Century*, while it ably depicts the young person who wears becoming uniform and poses as a Nurse, is eminently unfair to that great body of working women who, after many years of arduous and devoted care of the sick, have earned for themselves the right to the title of "trained Nurse," and for whose services there is every day an increasing demand in nearly every branch of Nursing work. While, therefore, we agree with Lady Priestley that, in depicting the *flâneur*, her strictures are well deserved, and that "Nurses à la Mode" are devoid of Religious Inspiration, lacking in Discipline, Vulgar, Tactless, and *Intrigante*, we maintain that she forms her judgment from the behaviour of women who, with little real training and residence in a Hospital under discipline, find it possible to flaunt before the public as Nurses, owing to the adoption of professional costume and the present lack of professional control; and that, in so describing them, she merely accuses them of apeing the manners of the times, which are essentially vulgar, from Court to Kitchen. We have had, as a trained Nurse of eighteen years' experience, unusual opportunities of forming an accurate judgment of the virtues and vices of our class, and we are happy to say that we can still retain the warmest admiration for the work and characteristics of the trained Nurse as she exists in the Hospital ward, in the districts amongst the poor, and even in that most difficult, responsible, and very disheartening branch of her work—in the private houses of the cultured classes.

RELIGIOUS INSPIRATION.

In the first place Lady Priestley states that "Nursing of the sick has for long been dissociated from religion, being adopted in Protestant communities simply and frankly as a means of earning a livelihood." But surely the inspiration of a religious motive as a factor in impelling women to devote themselves to nursing the sick is not confined to Roman Catholic countries or to cloistered sisterhoods. If we admit this proposition the religion of the world must indeed be at a low ebb; but the Church Catholic has ever held religion to be a motive power capable of inspiring the lives of secular persons as well as of those whose vocation lies in a religious community. We should be sorry to think that all Nurses in the present day adopt the calling of Nursing "simply as a means of earning a livelihood," neither do we believe that this is actually the case, nor do we think that because Nurses of the present day receive remuneration for the work they perform that high motives do not find place side by side with those which actuate a woman to devote herself to Nursing as a means of obtaining an honourable independence. Medical men recognise, and frankly acknowledge also, that it is greatly owing to the patient, unseen, but thorough work of Nurses, that they are able to undertake many operations which in former days would never have been attempted, and this standard of Nursing is only to be attained by a conscientious devotion to duty on the part of the Nurse, which must be inspired by the highest ideal.

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