

THE Nurses' Home, given to the Dundee Royal Infirmary by its President, Sir. W. Ogilvy Dalgleish, Bart., and named in consequence the Dalgleish Nurses' Home, is nearly finished, and will soon be ready for occupation. It will be connected with the infirmary by a covered way. The Home will provide accommodation for nearly forty nurses, in addition to the house-keeping staff.

* * *

THE *Scalpel*, under the heading "An example of Nurses' Authority in a French Hospital," makes the following astonishing assertion:—

"A lad, aged 18, under treatment at the hospital St. Jacques, at Nantes, for epilepsy, quarrelled with another patient. To punish him one of the infirmary sisters ordered the *infirmier* Corentin to fasten him strongly to a post, after putting him on a strait waistcoat. The poor fellow remained two days in this state; and when he cried, the bands were tightened, and so he died, still fastened to the post. The arrest of the *infirmier* was ordered, but the sister is still at large."

Surely if the facts are as reported the sister was even more to blame than the *infirmier*.

* * *

A CORRESPONDENT from Holland writes:

"The *Nursing Notes* in which you have probably read of a new nursing journal, issued at Amsterdam, has made a "blunder" of great dimensions. There is no other nursing paper in our small country but the *Maandblad voor Ziekenverpleging*, now already seven years old. The publishers of our monthly nursing magazine have asked from the editor of *Nursing Notes* that copies of the latter journal and our *Maandblad* may be sent regularly in exchange. This seems to have given rise to the mistake on the part of the editor of *Nursing Notes*, who tells his readers of "the new journal for trained nurses in Holland," degrading in this way our seven-years-old *Maandblad* to a sucking baby."

* * *

AN interesting criticism of the scheme for founding a Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada, appears in the *Toronto World*, by "Katherine Leslie," and inasmuch as the scheme as at present suggested is not founded on a firm economic basis, it would appear wise that only those nurses who are trained and certificated should be admitted to such an Order, otherwise it is inevitable that an injustice will be the result in the labour market of nursing.

* * *

Katherine Leslie writes:—

"We are all more or less familiar with the views of both medical men and the laity in Ontario on the subject of the Victorian Order, but, so far, we have had little or no opinion from the people in places

which it is supposed will be most benefitted by such a scheme. It is supposed, for instance, that the people of the North-west and the prairies are in especial need of such nursing and care as the order proposes to supply, but a clever young physician, Dr. Smythe, head of the Medicine Hat Hospital, is quite of a contrary opinion. I had the pleasure of meeting him on the occasion of a recent visit to Toronto, and we fell to talking of the Order and its use, so far as the great North-west is concerned. He supplied me with much valuable information, both about the territories and their peoples, and the medical attendance upon which they are dependent in case of sickness.

* * *

In the first place, he is opposed to the Order on the very reasonable grounds that it interferes with legitimate business. Winnipeg, Brandon, Medicine Hat and Calgary have all hospitals and training schools for nurses. A very large number of 'nice' girls are being trained in these hospitals with a view to earning a livelihood by their profession, and, with these throughout the territory, the Order is bound to interfere, unless they choose to enter the Order, which is very unlikely indeed.

* * *

Then, the population all about Medicine Hat is composed largely of ranchers—and the doctor contends that ranching out there is a much more paying and reliable business than mining—who are all, well-to-do, self-respecting people, perfectly well able to supply both doctors and nurses in time of sickness. The Manitoba farmers, too, are prospering—I forgot to ask the doctor whether he is a Grit, but this sounds like it—at any rate, he knows whereof he speaks; then, prosperity is evidenced by the big barns they are building, and in a hundred other ways, so that they, too, are perfectly able to supply both doctor and nurse when necessary.

* * *

The hospitals send out nurses all over the territories, and the fee is much less than with us in Ontario—a dollar a day being their very moderate demand. If necessary, they do the work for sweet charity's sake, and the doctor says that he has never heard of a case of poverty and sickness combined that was not gladly and willingly attended to. Cases among the poor are immediately reported to the member of the Legislature, who sees that the patient is at once sent on to the hospital nearest his home, and this is done at the cost of the Province. The hospitals have special arrangements with the railways for the careful transportation of invalids from home to hospital, and *vice versa*, and maternity cases are especially provided for in all the hospitals.

* * *

The only class of people who might be benefitted by a number of missionary nurses are the colonies of foreigners, who are so ignorant and belated in their ideas that they will have nothing to do with modern medicine; they cling to their old superstitions with amazing tenacity; when sickness falls among them they are in a terrible way, for their simples and herbs are useless, and their sufferings have none of the alleviations which modern medicine supplies. But even of these wretched people the doctor has little hope till the older generation dies out, and then something may be done with the young in educating

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)