

them in modern ideas. Here, then, is a field for the nurse in the territories, but, for the rest, there does not seem, according to Dr. Smythe, to be much room for any except those who belong to the territories, and who are training to that end."

THE following description of hospital life in Matabeleland, which we cull from a contemporary, will serve to show that nursing in this country is not devoid of excitement. An English nursing sister writes:—

"Hospital life here is more exciting than in a London hospital. On night-duty from the wards we can hear the lions roaring, while tiger-cats and jackals prowl round the verandahs, making us feel thankful that most of our patients are Mounted Police and sure riflemen. The night orderlies, too, are good shots. One of our patients is suffering from an encounter with a lion. With sporting intent, he one night set a gun-trap for a lion, but when it went off it only wounded instead of killing it. In the morning he followed in its track, came up with it, fired, but again only wounded the creature, which sprang ferociously at him. He tried another shot, but the gun missed fire and the lion was on him. Fortunately, its forelegs were wounded, so it was not such a ferocious foe. It got its teeth into the left thigh of our patient, whose hands, in trying to beat it off, were badly bitten. Luckily, the lion suddenly lifted its head, and a friend with our patient saw his opportunity and shot the creature dead. He then poured strong ammonia, which sportsmen always carry in case of snake-bite, into the wounds, and telegraphed for the nearest doctor (thirty miles off), who brought him here in a pitiable condition, but he is doing splendidly. The lion's skull adorns one of the wards, but the skin was eaten by the jackals. The claws are to be mounted as brooches and distributed in memento to the patient's friends."

*Truth* publishes a series of complaints as to the conditions of employment in the Indian nursing service which it has received from "a competent authority." It states:—

(1) The service is seriously understaffed, more particularly in Madras, where the proper number of sisters allotted to each station is not maintained, and one sister is frequently found doing the work of two.

(2) There is no pension or pension fund attached to the service, and all the sister has to look forward to is a gratuity of Rs. 1,500 after ten years' service, while the nursing sisters in the home service receive a permanent pension at the end of twenty years.

(3) The sisters, although the military regulations state that the service is an 'integral part of the military Medical Service,' are charged income-tax on a minimum income of Rs. 150 per month, while the rest of the Military Service only pays on a minimum income of Rs. 400.

(4) No special allowance is made for service in Burmah, where the cost of living, at any rate of food and servants, is at least double, and sometimes treble, what it is in India."

If these complaints can be substantiated, they surely demand prompt action on the part of the authorities.

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



ON Saturday last, while a number of out-patients were waiting to be admitted to St. Bartholomew's Hospital the portico under which they were standing gave way. Several of the patients who were near the door were caught in the falling débris and injured, but happily the majority were able to make good their escape before the complete collapse of the portico.

Mr. Joseph Storrs Fry has intimated to the hon. secretaries of the proposed Jubilee Convalescent Home for Bristol that he will contribute £10,000 to the fund now being collected, on the condition that £40,000 besides his own donation is given before the 1st of December next. Twenty-two thousand pounds has already been promised, and Mr. Fry considers that a donation of £1,000 from an anonymous source may probably be reckoned on. The sum of £17,000, therefore, must be raised, in order to enable the committee of the proposed Convalescent Home to avail themselves of Mr. Fry's generous offer. Further than this, if the sum of £50,000 is raised, two more sums of £10,000 each have been promised, so that, in all, the gift of £30,000 is conditional upon £17,000 being raised by December. Under these circumstances we feel sure that Bristolians will put their shoulders to the wheel, and work with a will.

It is anticipated that the total cost of the Nurses' Home, Bradford, of which the foundation-stone is to be laid on Monday next by the Duke of Devonshire, will, when the building is complete and furnished, amount to about £10,000.

A grant of £18,000 was recently voted by Parliament for the erection of a new military hospital in connection with Edinburgh Castle. The new building will be erected on the site formerly occupied by the stores and magazine, and it is expected that it will be ready for occupation within a year. The work has been entrusted to Mr. Colin Macandrew, of Lauriston Gardens.

The Irish Press is speaking out strongly upon an alleged injustice, namely, the exclusion of Roman Catholics from all positions and all promotion in the medical service of the Irish Lunatic Asylums. In our opinion, in making any medical appointment, the selection should be made with regard to the medical qualifications of the applicants, and not to their adherence to the Thirty-nine Articles. Indeed, it would seem that in Ireland the fact of a medical superintendent being a Roman Catholic should, if the matter of his religion be taken into consideration at all, be a point in his favour, as three-fourths of his patients are of the same persuasion. The fact that out of twenty-three superintendents in Ireland only six are Roman Catholics would seem to prove that the religious test is applied. The matter has been brought into prominence at the present time, as the vacant posts of medical superintendent of the Belfast and Armagh Asylums have both been filled by gentlemen of the Protestant persuasion.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)