

time by one or two old and infirm men, who sit up at night with bad cases. One such was looking after a case of cancer on the day of the inspector's visit. The inspector also saw a third old man, who occasionally acts as night nurse, and his qualifications would appear to be that he is feeble, and has a paralyzed arm. The poor old people who are directed to see to these duties are almost in need of nursing themselves. Such are the provisions for the treatment of the sick in one of the most important unions in the centre of Ireland."

The same article vouches for the authenticity of the following facts, which occurred in a Poor Law Fever Hospital during the past year in an Ulster union:—

"There were five cases of typhus fever in the hospital. Three of these were delirious. The nurse was untrained. She was assisted by paupers during the day. She was replaced by paupers during the night. The nurse caught the fever, and was buried within seven days. The dying nurse, who fell at her post, and the fever patients who had been her charge, were 'nursed' during these days only by paupers. A trained nurse was obtained on the day of the funeral. There were now in the hospital five cases of typhus fever, two cases of scarlatina, and one of diphtheria. The new nurse, after her day's work of anxiety and danger, felt obliged to go round to her patients' beds every two or three hours during the night. She frequently found the pauper nurses asleep, but did not think they should be blamed, as the female pauper was supposed to cook and wash for all the patients, and do the scrubbing work during the day. In fact, she was the only ward's maid, and was supposed to do night duty as well. Under such a strain the nurse sickened of typhus. She was found lying like a log on a bed of straw."

Surely it is a disgrace that such a condition of things is allowed to continue even for a day. It is satisfactory to learn that Gertrude, Countess of Pembroke, is at present having trained, at her own expense, a number of nurses for the Irish workhouses; but, at the same time, it cannot be conceded that it is right that the efficient nursing of the sick poor in Irish workhouses should be dependent upon private effort.

We learn from the *African Critic* that Mrs. Mary H. Buchanan, the President of the Victoria Nurses' Institute at Cape Town, has issued to the South African press a letter concerning the progress made by the Institute scheme, which is very interesting from diverse points of view. Enough money has now been secured to buy a house at Cape Town, and a matron and nurses are ready to enter into possession; but further funds are still needed before the proposed home is complete. Mr. Rhodes has added a further gift of £50 to his first donation of £25. We hope to hear soon that all the necessary funds have been raised.

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A. Guarantee of Purity.

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



AT an inquest lately held at Southwark it was stated by the mother of the child, a baby four weeks old, that on the previous Thursday week she had taken the child to the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street, where it had been prescribed for. On the following Sunday it was so ill that she could not take it further than King's College Hospital. On the following Tuesday she took it there again, and asked them to admit the child, but they had not a bed, and advised her to go to Great Ormond Street. She did so, and was told to take the child home, and if it was alive at the end of two hours to give it the white of an egg. She then took the child to the Evelina Hospital, but it died three minutes before she got there. In summing up the coroner commented on the strange conduct of the authorities at Great Ormond Street, in refusing to take in a dying child. For our own part we cannot understand, even if there was no bed available, why a quiet corner could not have been found in the out-patient department, in which a child, upon whom judgment had been pronounced that it "would not live more than two hours," might die in peace.

The contributions towards the Huddersfield Nurses' Institute are steadily increasing, and the sum in hand now amounts to £2900. The association is to be called the Huddersfield Victoria Sick Poor Nursing Association—surely a name which is unfortunately long and unwieldy—in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee.

The General Infirmary, Leeds, is expending between £4000 and £5000 in the erection of two new operating theatres, with instrument, anæsthetic, and recovery rooms. The walls of the theatres are lined with opaline, a vitreous material with a smooth glassy surface, said to be microbe proof. The £5000 which was given by Mr. James Stables about two years ago is to be expended upon a nurses' home. Some increased provision for the nurses has been necessitated by the fact that the present nurses' home only affords accommodation for about fifty nurses, while the Infirmary Board have gradually increased the number of nurses and decreased their hours of work, until at the present time there are nearly one hundred nurses on the staff. Temporary provision has been made for the additional nurses, but it is naturally highly desirable that the institution should possess a home capable of accommodating all the nurses apart from the Infirmary, and this is about to be built.

Mr. John Dale, a shipowner of Newcastle, has offered £100,000 to build a new infirmary for the city of Newcastle upon the condition that a site is procured on Castle Leazes, or on the recreation ground upon the outskirts of the city, and also that the subscribers of the £100,000 already raised to erect a new infirmary on the site of the existing institution, allow that money to be devoted to its maintenance.

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