

SATISFACTORY progress is being made in the erection of a nurses' home in connection with the Liverpool Workhouse at Brownlow Hill, and in about two or three months the new structure will, it is hoped, be completed. Adequate accommodation for the nurses of the institution has for some time been needed, as those nurses who are on night duty have at present to "sleep out." The new home will, however, provide apartments for the whole of the nursing staff of the house.

\* \* \*

THE site selected by the sub-committee for the proposed Victoria Nurses' Home, at Godalming, and adopted by the Committee, may not, perhaps, be considered by a good many persons as an ideal one, yet it possesses considerable advantages over the other four sites reported upon, which it is impossible to overlook. The principal consideration is the question of cost, and the piece of ground chosen can be obtained at so small an expense that, together with the buildings, the whole outlay need not much exceed £1000. This will leave a margin for any contingencies likely to arise.

\* \* \*

AFTER reading Mr. Stephen Paget's most interesting book, "John Hunter," we felt impelled to pay a visit to the Royal College of Surgeons, which is, in a great measure, a monument of the work of the great man, and in which place Hunter's unique collection is enshrined. In the entrance hall of the College are two life-sized portraits of John and William Hunter, and in one of the principal halls is a full-sized statue of John Hunter. In an appropriate position opposite to Hunter is a bust of William Clift, his faithful apprentice, the custodian of his specimens after his death—when no one seemed to care whether this wonderful collection was preserved or no—the transcriber of his manuscripts, and the man who gave clear and conclusive evidence, before the Parliamentary Committee on Medical Education, as to the destruction of those manuscripts by Sir Everard Home. It is good to see the genius of Hunter at length recognized. It is also a lesson to be taken to heart, that while the real worth of Hunter is now universally recognized and appraised, the very names of his detractors and persecutors are forgotten, or remembered only in an ignominious connection.

\* \* \*

PASSING from the hall where Hunter and Clift remain in calm and dignified possession, we paid a visit to the skeleton of Byrne, or O'Brien, the Irish giant. Poor O'Brien! We confess to a certain sympathy with him, in his objection to the surveillance of an employé of Hunter during his last illness, with a view to the possession of his body after his death. O'Brien thought he had avoided falling into Hunter's hands, when he left

orders that his body should be watched night and day, enclosed in a leaden coffin, and carried out to sea and sunk. But, trifles of this sort could not be expected to deter Hunter from obtaining a specimen which he desired in his enthusiastic devotion to science, and to-day the skeleton of O'Brien in the Royal College of Surgeons testifies to the determination of the man, and his triumphant mastery over all obstacles. After all, it is given to few of us to contribute in any way to the cause of science, and as we have never heard that O'Brien's uneasy spirit haunts the College, we may hope that the Irish giant, upon mature consideration in another sphere, is now content with his fate.

\* \* \*

WE should advise all nurses to visit the Royal College of Surgeons in Lincoln's Inn Fields, some Friday, on which day it is open to ladies until four o'clock, men being wiser in their generation than women, and ending their working day, we invariably find, sooner. Nurses will find very many things that are of interest to them in the museum, and much that will help them to a right understanding of the cases they nurse.

\* \* \*

WE are glad to observe that the *British Medical Journal* in the following paragraphs advocates the principle of co-operation in the nursing profession, by which thoroughly trained nurses might be supplied to the working classes:—

"A method of supplying nurses for the working classes has yet to be devised which, while it preserves their independence, shall be within reach of their means. The inevitable result of the high cost in production and distribution has increased the fees for the services of the modern nurse, so that she is more and more the luxury of the rich: and this upward tendency does not at present appear to have reached the highest figure."

"At the outset we would deprecate any scheme which aims at providing a cheap nurse by lowering the standard of her qualifications; sickness shows no consideration to the purse of its victim, graduating the severity and complexity of the attack to the ability to obtain the highest medical opinion, and the services of the most highly-trained nurse; the sick nurse for the poor, the middle class, and the wealthy must be fully trained for her duties."

"If, then, the need cannot be met by cheapening the cost of production, can it be done by lowering the cost of distribution? We think it can, and we would consider it from this point of view."

"The principle of co-operation might be introduced into the nursing profession; that principle which underlies the system of district nursing for the poor; in other words, the services of one nurse might be shared out among several patients requiring attention; this gives us the visiting or daily nurse, visiting and attending on a limited number of patients in a given area. This nurse, of course, could only attend on the slighter cases; but there are many surgical patients who could in this way receive all the nursing care needed, and a certain proportion of medical cases; but

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)