

him and all his bad ways, but one would like to know if they are equally anxious to cut themselves off from all the benefits resulting from Professor MacEwen's battling for necessary improvements. Rumour says not."

IN nursing matters, we do not believe Professor MacEwen claims autocratic power. He is in advance of his times in the methods he employs, and he is desirous of seeing the nursing department of the Western Infirmary organized on a much more liberal and efficient basis. That he would co-operate generously with those inspired by his own high standard of nursing, in organizing the nursing department on modern lines, we have no doubt, and before peace is restored at the Western Infirmary a large increase in the nursing staff will have to be sanctioned, and the position and authority of the Matron recognized and assured, both by the Directors and medical staff.

WE hope, therefore, the new Matron will draw the attention of the Directors of the Western Infirmary to the small number of nurses per bed, in comparison with efficiently nursed English hospitals. We feel sure that the proper attention to the details of nursing critical cases, and the enormous amount of thought, care, and attention required in preparing patients and appliances to meet the needs of modern surgery must place a very great strain upon the Matron and her present staff. Great and successful surgeons must have ample and well trained nursing assistance, or much of their work for the good of humanity is thrown away.

SISTERS of Mercy are to be introduced as nurses into the Edenberg Union, in Ireland, and we feel sure their ministrations will be most useful, if they are previously taught the theory and practice of nursing. We should much regret to see the good Sisters being superseded by trained lay nurses in the Irish Unions; their unselfish devotion to duty could ill be spared in these material days.

THE Guardians of the Killarney Workhouse Hospital have directed that extra dietary shall no longer be granted to the attendants in the workhouse hospital, and a disturbance, which at one time threatened to be serious, arose between the female inmates and the newly-appointed female nurses, presumably because the nurses attempted to carry out this order. The Superior of the Order of Nuns, four of whom have been nurses in the hospital for the past quarter of a century, has threatened to withdraw the nuns unless assistants are again appointed on the mere remuneration of extra diet. The cost of this, it is stated, would be about £250 a year. We hope the Guardians will devote this sum towards providing trained nursing attendance for the sick, and will continue to decline to expend it on extra rations for unskilled workers.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Four of the twelve chief City Companies have agreed to open and endow a ward of thirty beds at St. Thomas's Hospital, in memory of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This involves an expenditure of at least £2500 a year.

It is proposed to invite Alderman Sir George Faudel-Phillips and Mr. Augustus Thorne to take seats on the Council of the Hospital Sunday Fund, in the place of Sir Stuart Knill and the late Mr. Howard Potter. The annual general meeting of constituents of the Fund is fixed for December 13th.

Mr. Rudyard Kipling was among the guests who attended the congratulatory dinner given by the Society of Medical Phonographers to Sir William Gowers, the founder and president. In the course of his response to the toast of "The Visitors," Mr. Kipling remarked:—"It had also been his privilege and honour, when in India to mix with doctors, and he had seen them all the world over. He had seen them going to sure and certain death without hope of reward, and without honour—simply because it was their business. (Cheers.) He had seen them handling the cholera and dying one after the other in the street; he had seen them handling small-pox, and when dying wiring for a substitute.

He had seen them in America manage a practice twenty miles in each direction, driving horses into eight feet of snow to attend an operation ten miles away, then digging the horses out and going on again. He had seen them in coolie ships, and wherever he had seen them he had found them good men. It was one of the proudest things in his life to be associated with real fighting men of this class, who were engaged in an everlasting contest with disease, dirt, filth, and corruption of every kind."

The "guild of the Brave Poor Things," which was founded in the summer of 1894, is a most interesting Society, which bands together men, women, and children, who are crippled, blind, or otherwise disabled. The idea of the guild was suggested by Mrs. Ewing's book, "The Story of a Short Life." Our readers will, doubtless, remember this pathetic story, with its little boy hero, who, bent upon being a soldier, becomes, owing to an accident, a hopeless cripple. The child eventually learns that it may be as hard a fight to be a brave sufferer, as a brave soldier, and to fulfil the motto "Happy in my lot."

This military spirit is carried out by the guild; flags, badges that stand as a sort of uniform, the Tug of War Hymn, the scarlet membership cards, the vivid colours introduced everywhere possible, all help to inspire enthusiasm, and give dull monotonous lives some of the military spirit of courage. The members assemble once a week. Outside the room where the guild is held, long before opening time, a pathetic company may be seen waiting. There are blind being led, lame supported by crutches and helpless pushed in chairs. When the door is opened, this motley crowd troops in. These weekly gatherings are little oases in the dreary deserts of those dark lives; fresh thoughts are given to the sufferers to carry away to their dull homes.

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