

and St. Elizabeth. The Children's Hospital is in much need of increased accommodation for its nurses, and it is thought that the nuns' cells in the convent, which are forty in number, can be converted into nurses' cubicles. The acquisition of the property has also been rendered very desirable by the fact that the authorities of St. John's Hospital contemplated building a new hospital, which would prejudicially affect the light and air of the Children's Hospital. It has, therefore, been decided to offer £30,000 for the property, and to appeal to the public for this sum. The governors of the Children's Hospital will, with the new property, acquire a garden of half an acre in extent, which will be the greatest possible boon to the convalescent children.

The Worshipful Company of Grocers has given a donation of £250, in aid of the Special Appeal Fund of Charing Cross Hospital.

The Company of Grocers has given a donation of £250, in aid of the Sustentation Fund of Guy's Hospital.

The Queen, patron of the hospital, has graciously forwarded sixty pounds of cast linen for the use of University College Hospital.

Mr. Everard Alexander Hambro, senior partner of Messrs. C. I. Hambro and Son, has accepted the chairmanship of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses, rendered vacant by the death of Mr. Walter Hayes-Burns.

Several medical students of Guy's Hospital are charged with assaulting an attendant at the Surrey Theatre, and an attendant is charged with assaulting one of the students. The last charge was denied, by the defendant, who was committed for trial by Mr. Slade, at the Southwark Police Court. The other charges are still *sub judice*. It would appear from the evidence given, that the Guy's students are so scientific that they could not tolerate the slow methods employed by the villain of the piece, in strangling the heroine. They accordingly chaffed him, and invited him to "buck up." We confess to a certain amount of sympathy with the objection of these gentlemen to a slow and prolonged method of despatch, and venture to offer a suggestion to the villain that he should take a few lessons in scientific methods from the aggrieved students, after which, like the people in our childhood's fairy tales, they would probably "live happily together ever after."

The Duchess of Buckingham and Chandos, who was accompanied by Lady Hélène Gore Langton, recently opened a home for district nurses, at Chorlton-cum-Hardy, near Manchester. The days are past when it was considered *en règle* for a member of the sterner sex to do all the talking, while the lady, who ostensibly performed the function, sat mumchance, as became a modest and well-brought-up woman. Women have now discovered that the "gift of tongues" has been bestowed on them not less frequently than on the other sex, which for so long regarded it as a perquisite peculiar to itself, and the woman who speaks for herself at public functions has "come to stay." The Duchess, on the occasion referred to, made a telling speech, and expressed her gratification at the arrangements made for the comfort of the nurses.

Mrs. Wadham has collected £300 to set going a District Nursing Association for the town of Barrow. She has succeeded in convincing the town of the necessity for this work, and has established a committee of eight ladies, of which Lady Evelyn Cavendish is president. Two Queen's nurses are to begin work at once.

The question of hospital reform is agitating the minds of the Welsh as well as the English public, and, we think, very justly. In connection with this subject we should like to draw attention to the fact that the medical staff at Newport Infirmary have, for a long time, pressed the adoption of a wage limit, or the appointment of an inquiry officer in order to limit the benefits of the charity to those for whom it was intended. This is obviously only just, but the directors declined both suggestions. Recently, Dr. Ensor, the honorary ophthalmic surgeon, refused to treat two patients, a young man and a young woman, both belonging to families whose income, he judged, did not entitle them to the benefits of gratuitous medical advice. The directors insisted that these persons should be treated, and upon Dr. Ensor's again refusing gave him three weeks' notice to terminate his appointment. If the facts are as reported, we think the action of the directors will be widely condemned. Busy medical men, who freely give their services to the necessitous poor, are surely only reasonable in refusing to prescribe, gratuitously, for those who can afford to pay. And, further, the public, though willing that the line of demarcation should err on the side of leniency, will scarcely be willing to encourage meanness to the extent of supporting institutions which treat those who can, as well as themselves, afford to pay for medical advice.

At a meeting of the managers of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, it was stated that for the year 1896-1897, as compared with 1895-1896, there was a decrease of £144 on five items; on fourteen other items there was a gross increase of £2048, leaving a net increase of expenditure of £1904. For the first time in the history of the infirmary, the payment of the parochial assessment has been enforced, and amounts to a substantial sum. It would seem only just that a charitable institution should be exempted from this burden.

Inventions, &c.

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