

affairs, and the injury done to nurses and the public when persons of the calibre of Dr. Outterson Wood, whose standing in the Councils of their own profession still remains to be recognized by their colleagues, thrust themselves into positions of authority over nurses.

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WE have in former issues referred to the Association of Graduate American Nurses, organized by Mrs. Olivia A. Grafstrom. We quite recognize that the objects which Mrs. Grafstrom desires to achieve are laudable, and will probably eventually be attained, but we desire to point out that the organization of the nursing profession in America is already begun, and that in the best, and, indeed, the only practical way, under the Superintendents of the Training Schools. American Nurses will, therefore, in our opinion, do wisely to devote their energies to consolidating their National Association, and to obtaining the professional privileges which they desire by means of this Association, upon which all Alumnae Associations connected with training schools of a given standard have representatives. This seems to us a wiser course than that of multiplying associations for professional purposes. The organization of the nursing profession in America is still in its infancy, and there is no doubt that nurses will act with a regard to their best interests if they direct their energies towards strengthening the hands of their Superintendents in their arduous work of organization. We think, therefore, that Mrs. Grafstrom's talents would be best employed in organizing co-operations for graduate nurses, and other schemes of corresponding usefulness, rather than by forming another association for the attainment of objects which the Superintendents of the Training Schools have already taken in hand.

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WE regret to record the fact of the death of Nurse Annie Watts, at the Brook Hospital, Shooter's Hill. The nurse was found in the bath-room very sick, with a bottle of nitric acid beside her. She ultimately became worse and died. Dr. Meccombie, the medical superintendent of the Hospital, gave evidence at the inquest that the nurse had told him that she was very depressed at the time. Her depression is attributed to disappointment at not being kept on at St. Pancras Infirmary, where she had lately been temporarily employed. It is a curious fact that nurses are passed on from one hospital to another who are entirely unsuitable for the positions they seek. It would seem as if Nurse Watts was not in a fit state of health to undertake responsible duties, and her work, no doubt, aggravated the depression from which she suffered. A verdict was returned of "Suicide while temporarily insane."

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The Duke of York has consented to become a vice-president of the Royal National Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest.

The London Hospital has received £105 from the Phoenix Fire Office and £500 from "S.P.Q." in response to the special appeal now being made in aid of the Maintenance Fund for the next five years.

The East London Hospital for Children has received the sum of twenty guineas, being the annual subscription of the Queen.

At the meeting of the East London Nursing Society, held at the Mansion House last week, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor, the report stated that 5089 cases had been nursed, each case necessitating repeated visits. The Lord Mayor expressed his great admiration for the work of the trained nurses, whose services he thought were as valuable as the doctor's. If the doctor's advice and directions were not properly carried out his attention would not be of much use, and none knew so well how to carry out these directions as the trained nurse. We are glad to see that the East London Nursing Society has a balance on the right side. We wish that the Committee would see its way to increase the salaries paid to its nurses.

Mr. J. S. Risien Russell, M.D. Edin., F.R.C.P., has been appointed Assistant Physician to University College Hospital. The council are to be congratulated upon the appointment. Dr. Russell is at present on the staff of the Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland Road, where he has by the excellence of his work won the confidence and respect of his colleagues, while his invariable courtesy to the nurses, and his appreciation of their work, have made him with them quite one of the most popular of the staff.

The report of Friedenheim, the Home for the Dying, at Upper Avenue Road, Swiss Cottage, records much useful work done during the past year. The need of a home into which the dying can be received, often painfully forces itself upon hospital workers, and the objects of this home must commend themselves to all. In common with many other charities, Friedenheim is appealing for increased support.

Three hundred and fifty invalids, including over one hundred from the Indian frontier, are expected to arrive at Southampton, for Netley, by the hired troopship "Simla," about March 23rd. The hospital authorities have also received notice from the Indian Headquarters, that a further contingent of some four hundred and eighty invalids from the front may be expected within the next few weeks.

The report of the Royal Infirmary, Lancaster, at the end of its first full working year since the new building has been opened, is very satisfactory. "The new

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