

tion, considerably more than the actual sum paid down, inasmuch as she has free board, lodging, and washing, at the expense of the institution, however long she may be out of a case, and has, consequently, no anxiety on this score, besides usually receiving medical attendance and nursing free; if she breaks down. At the same time, there is no doubt that, in many cases, a considerable profit is made out of private nurses whose services are farmed out, either to replenish the coffers of the institution to which they belong, or to bring in a comfortable income to some private speculator. There is no question in our mind that the right principle is to pay, directly to the nurses themselves, the money which they earn, less a small percentage for working expenses. Nurses have too long been fed, so to speak, with spoon food. It is time surely they arrived at man's estate, and learnt to arrange their own affairs, to think, act, judge, and manage for themselves. Those who teach them how to do this are, in our opinion, their truest friends. We, therefore, are unfeignedly glad to see the principle of co-operation for private nurses being gradually adopted by one institution after another. It would seem that the nurses at University College Hospital are especially fortunate, inasmuch as the percentage which they pay is unusually small. This is accounted for by the fact that there are no extra office expenses, as the scheme is managed by the Sister Superior, whose services are gratuitous.

REASON VERSUS RIDICULE.

WE observe in the daily press that there is an inclination to ridicule the efforts which are being made by the Church Anti-Vivisection League to secure on the Boards of Guardians which are about to be elected, representatives who will use all legal means and influence to oppose vivisection, and vivisectional experiments, on patients in infirmaries and asylums. We cannot consider this attitude a wise one. There is no doubt, that there is an uneasy and widespread feeling on the part of the public that hospitals are used not only as places for the healing of disease, but also as schools of science, and that this feeling tightens the purse strings, and without doubt materially diminishes the incomes, of the institutions which have the reputation of being so utilized, a fact which committees of hospitals will do well to note. This feeling

of uneasiness would be most wisely dealt with by the production of substantial proofs that no need for it exists, rather than by jibing at it for its existence. Jibes do not convince, and sound reasoning would be more becoming to those who affect to ridicule the statements made by the Anti-Vivisection League. It is a fact that there are two hospitals in London, of which the staffs are to a considerable extent identical, which have achieved a high reputation as schools of science, and of both of which the financial position is exceedingly serious. This fact surely speaks well for the humanity of the public. They are willing to support institutions in which the cure of the patients is the first consideration, but they decline to give, as charity, money to be devoted to scientific research which is prosecuted, ostensibly for the public good, at the expense of the individual well-being. From our own observation, we are bound to say that we think the scientific enthusiasm of the younger generation of medical men needs to be very carefully directed by their seniors. The men of the former generation, typified at their best by the late Dr. James Andrew, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and the present Sir Thomas Smith, Bart., were men whose strong human sympathies, as well as professional skill, ensured that the very best would be done for each individual patient. They are types who may with advantage serve as models to a younger generation.

HEAD GEAR AT THEATRES.

THE question as to whether hospital nurses should be allowed to wear their bonnets in those parts of theatres where other ladies are expected to remove them has been raised by the fact of an indignant invalid, who visited a theatre accompanied by a nurse, having written to the Press to protest against this rule being enforced. We are strongly of opinion that all head gear should be removed before entering a theatre, where it is invariably an annoyance, and we go so far as to say that if the coiffure is especially elaborate this should be left in the waiting room also. This rule would be quite easy to carry out, and would by no means necessitate the attendance of a barber, as the uninitiated may suppose. It merely means the removal of a few pins!

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