

AND what struck us as still more obsolete from the point of view of a trained nurse was the array (because more than one appeared allotted to each patient) of chamber utensils which were unblushingly exposed to view under each bed!

Why? If these utensils are conscientiously emptied immediately they are used, surely it would be better to bring them from and return them to the lavatory, and if they are not at once emptied they are a source of great danger to the sick. From our view of training we can only point out that to permit nurses to become accustomed to so indelicate and insanitary an arrangement—as leaving the excretions of the sick under their beds—is to inculcate in them a disgusting habit, which, we should imagine, would go far to prevent their ever attaining even an ideal of “perfection.” It seems almost incredible that such a “nursing atrocity” can still exist at Hyde Park Corner in this year of grace 1898.

ONE of the first steps taken by Russia to develop Port Arthur is the organization of two hospitals, in which as many as thirty nurses are already employed.

ON May 4th “The Medicine Man” will be produced at the Lyceum. Among the dramatis personæ the inevitable trained nurse is to appear. It is to be hoped that “the young person” of the prunes and prisms type, attired in exaggerated and befurbeloyed uniform will not again do duty for a member of the nursing profession. Surely, Mr. Roberts S. Hichens, of “Green Carnation” fame, who is part author of the play, will endow the young woman with a spice of human nature.

WE have pleasure in acknowledging an annual subscription of £1 1s. from Miss Whitaker for the Sir Julian Goldsmid Home of Rest for Nurses, at Brighton.

THERE is acute curiosity in nursing circles to know who will be the new Matron of the Birmingham General Hospital. We are informed that five candidates have now been selected, and will appear before the Committee of Management this week. Of these, the two most favoured candidates will be requested to stay in the city until Friday, when the appointment will be made. The nurses of the hospital are naturally on tenterhooks, and can scarcely restrain their impatience to know the decision of the committee. Those who have experienced it know how much difference a change of matrons may make in the happiness of the nursing staff of a hospital, and the nurses of the Birmingham General Hospital would be more than human if they did not discuss

the pro and cons of the selection of the five candidates with the keenest avidity.

THE outcome of the disturbances at the Llanely Hospital is that the committee have been compelled to close the hospital, except to the most acute cases. This is a serious consequence of the inevitable resignation of Miss Barwick, the matron. It will be remembered that Miss Barwick raised an objection to the appointment of the Head Nurse, on the ground that she was not qualified for the post. It is asserted that the committee and the medical staff supported the nurse against the matron. This being so, the matron obviously had no course open to her except to resign, as she could not undertake the responsibility of the nursing, when her subordinate was in her opinion, not competent to perform it. We hope that when a new matron is appointed the committee will not expect her to make bricks without straw, and that the medical staff will support her if she desires to maintain an efficient standard of nursing.

OF making Nursing Homes there is no end. Quite recently, Mrs. Sala, widow of the late George Augusta Sala, stated that at the end of last year she endeavoured, with the help of her friends, to establish a Nursing Home at Boscombe, but failed owing to the commencement of the present public examination of her affairs in the Bankruptcy Court. We are sorry for this lady who has undertaken her late husband's liabilities, but the Nursing Home scheme appears to us singularly infelicitous. In the first place neither a talent for journalism nor impecuniosity qualifies for the important position of superintendent of a Nursing Home, and secondly, the proprietor of such an institution needs both to lay out and to have in reserve a considerable amount of capital if the venture is to succeed. That it is possible for any nursing homes to succeed which are managed by untrained persons amounts to a scandal, and would be impossible were medical men as careful to place their patients only under the care of trained nurses as they are to meet in consultation only registered practitioners.

CHAPLAINS and other friends of asylum workers will welcome two excellent little pamphlets by the Rev. H. Hawkins, Chaplain of Colney Hatch Asylum; one addressed to the “New Asylum Nurse”; the other to the attendant or nurse who is leaving the service of a particular asylum. New-comers, who are launched into a world which is entirely fresh and strange to them, often feel forlorn and home-sick, though they turn a brave front to the world. To these, the former address, which we have mentioned will be welcome, whilst the wise and kindly advice contained in it should

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