

Professional Review.

"THE ANNUAL CHARITIES' REGISTER."

"THE ANNUAL CHARITIES' REGISTER AND DIGEST," published by Longmans, Green & Co., 30, Paternoster Row, for the Charity Organisation Society, is an admirable summary of the charities of the Metropolis, together with much valuable information as to the best means of relieving distress and improving the condition of the poor.

INTRODUCTION.

The masterly introduction by Mr. C. S. Loch, extending over some 160 pages, will be read with the attention it deserves by those persons, many in number, who realize Mr. Loch's exceptional qualifications for the task he has undertaken, and his immense store of knowledge concerning the facts of which he treats.

RELIEF IN SICKNESS.

The section of the Register of the greatest interest to nurses is naturally that dealing with relief in sickness. This section includes an account of the formation of the Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund for London, notices of all the hospitals with medical schools attached, and many smaller ones. The suburban and cottage hospitals, the pay hospitals and special hospitals, medical and surgical homes, and convalescent homes, as well as societies for helping convalescents, such as the Surgical Aid Society and the National Truss Society, are also exhaustively dealt with. A section is also devoted to the nursing institutions of the Metropolis, as well as to dispensaries, so that nurses in possession of "The Annual Charities' Register," should be able to obtain information as to all societies which will be likely to be of use to their patients, from whatever classes these may be drawn.

A VALUABLE BOOK OF REFERENCE.

The price of the work is only four shillings, a most moderate price considering the vast amount of information which is contained between its covers. As a book of reference upon the subjects with which it deals we do not know its equal.

HOMES FOR THE EMPLOYED, AND SHELTERS.

Nurses are not unfrequently exercised in their minds as to what will become of patients who have been under their care, and who apparently on leaving the hospital have no fixed home to which to go. For these if they are in work there are many homes, full particulars of which are to be found in "The Charities' Register," and for the really friendless there are shelters also, notably the House of Charity in Greek Street. This excellent Society is of the greatest value in affording a "home for every kind of friendlessness and destitution, not the manifest offspring of vice or idleness," and hospital matrons, and we doubt not nurses also, have proved it to be a very real friend in need to destitute convalescents.

INDEX.

Much more valuable information is given, upon which we have not space to touch, but not the least of the merits of the Register is its exhaustive index, by consulting which it is possible to refer at once to any section, or subject, concerning which it is desired to obtain information.

Our Foreign Letter.

NEWS FROM BOMBAY.



It makes correspondence rather a depressing thing, when one recollects that before one's news reaches England it is quite

stale. If I am to write about the plague, it must be later, when I know more about it. In this hospital the day nurses go on duty at 7 a.m. till 12 one day, and again from 4 for the rest of the evening; and from 7 a.m. till 4 p.m. on the alternate days. The night nurse works from 8 p.m. till 7 a.m. The patients are interesting, and we find them very grateful. All our officials are natives, from the sweeper to the resident medical officer. In each ward we have on duty two orderlies for the men, two ayahs for the women, and either two men or women for the menial work. The orderlies and ayahs are supposed to make the poultices, wash the patients, and make their beds. But I usually perform many of these duties myself, as the native is nothing if not conservative—and their methods are appalling—and it is useless to show them how one wishes things done, as they have done these things in their own fashion before we came out, and are quite ready to put us right if we depart from their methods. They simply cannot be made to understand that a change can be desirable. If one gives strict injunctions that a patient must not be got out of bed, and that the sheet must be changed after the English custom, one will find the patient, five minutes later, seated out of bed with a temperature of 104 during the changing of the sheet.

On night duty I generally have to resort to vigorous methods to awake the night helpers—they, with their families, lay themselves down outside, and go fast asleep—we have the same trouble with most of the orderlies and ayahs. There is always, at least, one friend supposed to be sitting up with each patient, but their habit is to stretch themselves on the floor at the bedside. In the Parsee ward several members of a family take up their abode in hospital during the sickness of one member; there is even a hut provided for them to eat in, and they occupy any empty beds that may be in the ward. It is puzzling sometimes to know which are the patients. Since the riots we have a military guard at the hospital, and we have native policemen who are supposed to guard certain gates, but they just lay themselves down and snore the night through.

A few nights ago I got a fright in coming from the dining-tent, where I had been having tea. As I passed through the gate I met a tall man wrapped in a blanket coming through, and he looked rather strange. I seized him (that she would) by the arm, and cried: "Who are you?" He jabbered, and made an effort to get free, but I stuck to him, and called for the sister from an adjoining ward, so that she might identify him, if he was an escaping patient, when he laughed, and, opening the blanket, displayed the uniform of the

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