

the Italian Red Cross Society has offered its assistance to the American and Spanish Red Cross branches, and has placed at their disposal its sanitary appliances, and other articles, for the use of the sick and wounded.

MEMBERS of the R.N.S. will regret to hear of the resignation of Miss M. E. Wilkinson, one of the first members of the society, and one of their representatives on the Executive Committee. But when they learn that Miss Wilkinson only severs her connection with the society upon her approaching marriage to Dr. Walker, of Wimbledon, they will, no doubt, give her their warm good wishes for a happy future.

THE recent annual meeting of the London Homœopathic Hospital marked an important epoch in the history of that institution which has now been doing a good work for no less a period than fifty years. During the past year the building of the Nursing Institute has been rapidly going on and is now completed, an adjoining house having been adapted for the purpose. The result is a comfortable and well-arranged house, containing forty-six beds for the use of the nurses.

THE enthusiasm of the nursing staff of the Homœopathic Hospital for their institution, and the high tone that prevails amongst them, is a matter of common knowledge, and it is satisfactory to know that the committee are aware of and appreciate the excellent services they render. The Chairman of the Board of Management, Mr. Stillwell, stated that the beds now available in the nursing institute, are more than are required by the hospital for nursing purposes at present, but that this gave the opportunity for enlarging the private nursing staff. This was one of the best advertisements they could have, for the nurses who had the interests of the hospital at heart, went out to nurse the sick, and by their means, contributions were made to the funds of the hospital.

THE Chairman also expressed the best thanks of the committee to Miss Brew, the sisters, and nurses for their continual and kindly help, and said that there seemed to be a feeling of emulation among the nurses as to who could best assist in carrying out the work of the hospital.

It was an open secret that when Mrs. Okell accepted the position of Lady Superintendent at the West Ham Infirmary she would be required to take her courage in both hands, if the necessary nursing reforms were to be effected.

For some weeks past the local press have given much publicity to nursing affairs at West Ham,

and we are glad to observe that the Nursing Committee and the Board of Guardians appear to be inspired with a genuine desire that the nursing department should be efficiently organised, and that they are affording Mrs. Okell the necessary official support to effect much needed reforms.

FOR the comfort of the sick the Board have directed Mrs. Okell to make several alterations which some of the older Nurses resent, and in consequence several letters of resignation were received at its last meeting. The Board did wisely to accept the resignations of those nurses who are not prepared to conform to changes, which are absolutely necessary to bring the nursing at West Ham Infirmary up to a modern standard.

AT the late quarterly meeting of the Nurses National Total Abstinence League, "In what way can nurses assist the Temperance movement?" was discussed, the following being among the answers given:—By wearing the badge, whether on or off duty, it being a help and safeguard. The fact of being known to be an abstainer has prevented doctors prescribing alcohol to the nurses when ill. By circulating the Nurses' Leaflet and other Temperance publications; and by sending WINGS to patients and passing it on to a friend.

The Hastings Times is justly irate at the revelation that nurses accept backsheesh from undertakers in Berlin; but we fear that "Humanitarian" forgets that nurses are but human, in addressing to them the somewhat lengthy and quite unanswerable question below.

"WE do not propose to criticise, in any form" (says this exacting person), "this new unchristian revelation of the ethical characteristics of our nursing sisterhoods. But trustful and suffering humanity have evidently much reason to inquire when the hospital nurses of our age will prepare themselves to

Join the choir invisible
Of those immortal dead who live again
In minds made better by their presence—live
In pulses stirred to generosity,
In deeds of daring rectitude, in scorn
For miserable aims that end with self,
In thoughts sublime that pierce the night-like stars,
And with their mild persistence urge men's search
To vaster issues. . . . May they reach
That purest heaven, be to other souls
The cup of strength in some great agony,
Enkindle generous ardour, feed pure love,
Beget the smiles that have no cruelty—
Be the sweet presence of a good diffused,
And in diffusion ever more intense.
So shall they join the choir invisible,
Whose music is the gladness of the world."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)