

of grief and pain showed itself in its face. The next day it was nearly dead, when it entered her mind to give it a little treacle. When its mouth was opened, its palate and tongue appeared black. It passed three days in a state of misery, and on the fourth came to its senses. After this the grain of the plague (danah or bubo) appeared in one of the female slaves, and from excess of temperature and increase of pain, she had no rest. Her color became changed; it was yellowish, inclining to black, and the fever was high. The next day she was free of fever and died. Seven or eight people in the house died in the same way, and some were ill. On the day I went to the garden from that halting place, those who were ill in the garden died, and in that place the bubo did not appear again. Briefly, in the space of eight or nine days, seventeen people became travellers on the road to annihilation. She also said 'Those on whom the boil appeared, if they asked another person for water to drink or bathe in, these also caught the infection, and at last it came to such a pass that through excessive suspicion, no one would pass near them.'

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A medical officer and the ambulance party have been stoned in Calcutta in the performance of their duty in removing a plague patient to the hospital.

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THERE have been some strong expressions of opinion in the Melbourne Press on the alleged overworking of the nurses at the Women's Hospital in Melbourne, which is the more to be deplored because the institution is managed by a committee of women.

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THE matter was brought before the committee by the resident-surgeon—without consulting the matron—a lack of professional etiquette which is also to be deplored, and a sub-committee has dealt with the details of the nurses' work.

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WE are glad to observe that the staff is to be increased, so that the nurses can be relieved, and have regular hours of duty.

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AN Addendum to the report of the committee says:—"Referring to certain sensational headings which have appeared in the press, in connection with the receipt of Dr. Balfour's letter, the sub-committee would wish to emphasize that the condition of affairs which called for it is of quite recent occurrence, and to point out that the funds available, and the demands upon them, must be their first consideration, and that in times of pressure it fines itself down to a question as to whether a temporary strain should be placed on the nursing staff or cases refused admission."

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IN our opinion there can be no question that cases should be refused if the nursing arrangements of an institution cannot meet the increased strain of work, without injury to the health of the nursing staff. Any other course is "robbing Peter to pay Paul" with a vengeance.

The Hospital World.

THE BELGRAVE HOSPITAL.

A REPRESENTATIVE of THE NURSING RECORD called recently at the Belgrave Hospital for Children to ascertain some particulars as to the proposed removal of the Hospital to South London. The busy superintendent, Miss M. E. Palmes, was most ready to afford all information on the subject, and evidently takes the keenest interest herself in the details of the scheme.

The removal of the hospital has been suggested because it is found that practically the Victoria Hospital, Chelsea, can provide for the needs of many of the patients who find their way to the Belgrave, while south of the Thames parents are compelled to bring their children to the Victoria, and even to the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, in order to obtain for them hospital treatment. Again, on the north side of the Thames the accommodation provided in children's hospitals is estimated at one cot per 3,523 head of population, while on the south side there is only one cot per 12,560 of the population.

It is proposed to transfer the present hospital, therefore to a site in Kennington, and to increase the number of beds to eighty. The hospital will endeavour to work with the medical practitioners in the neighbourhood, and will thus chiefly adopt their recommendations in the selection of patients. Every effort will be made to prevent abuse of the charity by persons who are able to afford to pay a medical man, and a "wage limit" will be established.

It is probably owing to the strong convictions of the matron on the subject, that a rule has been made, that "the number of beds in any one ward shall not exceed twelve." Miss Palmes holds that an important part of the treatment of sick children is that they should be regarded as individuals, and mothered, and this, she thinks, is best attained in small wards, where the child has a name, and not a number.

Miss Palmes also cherishes the hope that in the new hospital it may be possible to give to nursemaids elementary instruction in the care of infants, and the proper methods of rearing and handling them. The amount of ignorance on these subjects on the part of young mothers is appalling, the consequence being that the children are left largely to the care of inexperienced nursemaids, and suffer accordingly. It is with a view of combating this evil that it is proposed to afford nursemaids facilities for instruction in their duties, and the scheme should prove, we think, of great benefit to the public. The details as to the length of training, payment of fees, and conditions of service, are, we are glad to see, to be left to the ladies' committee, who are obviously the most suited to deal with these questions.

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