

held at the Society's House, Northumberland Avenue, on Thursday, July 7th. The S.P.C.K. is a society which has special claims upon all who try to fulfil, either in person or by proxy, the last command of their Divine Master, "to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," as it is the first society formed in connection with the English Church to fulfil this obligation. Founded 200 years ago by five earnest men, its work has increased so enormously that it has been necessary from time to time to found daughter societies to undertake special branches of the work. Of these, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and the National Society, dealing with educational work at home, are perhaps the most important. The special work of the S.P.C.K. at the present time is (1) To assist in training students for Medical Mission work; (2) To help towards the building and furnishing of Hospitals and Dispensaries; (3) To give grants towards the maintenance of Medical Missions. It seems specially appropriate that the interest of nurses in mission work should be directed towards these objects, and we hope the Exhibition in aid of the funds of the Nurses' Missionary Association may be a very successful one. Any nurses who are willing to help the Association should communicate with the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Percy Leake, Church House, Weybridge.

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WE are glad to notice that a special committee has recommended to the Belfast Guardians that probationers nurses shall be engaged for three years, and that they shall not be entitled to a certificate of efficiency until the period of training is over, and they have successfully passed an examination. This is as it should be. It is startling, however, to find included in the regulations "The medical officers shall, at the end of the first six months' service of each probationer report as to whether satisfactory progress has been made, and whether the probationer gives evidence of probably becoming an efficient nurse." Is there no superintendent of nurses in the Belfast Infirmary, and, if there is, do the Guardians contemplate that she shall be an absolute nonentity? If it is not the duty of the superintendent of nurses to train her subordinates and to report to the committee as to their qualifications, it is difficult to know why the farce of appointing such a superintendent should take place.

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A new edition of the "Nurses' Report Book," arranged by Miss C. M. Löhr, Matron of the Cottage Hospital, Potter's Bar, has now been issued. It is a very well arranged little book, and should be of much use to private nurses.

The London School of Medicine.

THE new buildings of the London School of Medicine for Women, which have been erected at a cost of £10,000, are now completed, and partially even in use. The Chemistry Laboratory, however, a spacious, well-lighted room on the ground floor, is still empty, being reserved for the opening ceremony on July 11th, by the Princess of Wales.

The New Block, which has been sorely needed for some time past, as the School has much outgrown its former quarters, consists of three large well-ventilated rooms, one above the other. They are to be used as Chemistry, Physiology, and Anatomy Laboratories, respectively. In the two latter, students are at present busily at work, and the change from the former small, and somewhat inadequately ventilated quarters, is much appreciated by them. To each laboratory a research room for the use of the lecturers is attached, and there are also dressing rooms for the students. The plans for the completion of the building include two other blocks, each of which it is estimated, will cost about £5,000, and which will include lecture rooms, library, common room, and other necessary buildings. It is to be hoped that in the near future, some woman, inspired with a sense of loyalty to her sex, and with the desire to help those who help themselves, will give or bequeath to the London School of Medicine for Women the sum required to complete the scheme.

It is interesting to look back over the last quarter of a century and note the modest beginnings from which the present important School has sprung. It was founded in 1874 with fourteen students, at 30, Handel Street, and in the course of the year, twenty-three entered. In 1890, another house was added, and in 1892, yet another. The first Dean of the School was Dr. Anstey, who was succeeded by Mr. Norton, the present senior surgeon of St. Mary's Hospital, and since 1883 the position has been held by Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M.D. No hospital could be induced to open its doors to women students until October, 1877, when the Royal Free opened its wards to the School on a five yearly agreement, which has since been renewed. When the School was founded no medical bodies would examine women, but in 1876 a Bill was passed enabling them to do so, and the King's and Queen's Colleges in Ireland at once threw open their doors to women. So also did Queen's University, Ireland, and in 1878 London University followed suit. Now all the universities, except Oxford and Cambridge, are open to them. The conjoint colleges still refuse to admit medical women to membership, the College of Physicians being the objector; but the obsolete opinions of this body will, no doubt, eventually have to give way to the force of popular opinion.

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