

men but not nurses, although no doubt Sir James Crichton Brown would consider it "crass ignorance and overweening conceit" to express this opinion. We presume these are some of the Mental Nurses whom Miss Entwisle describes in the *Nurses' Journal* as "not equal to St. Thomas's, but quite equal to what you would find in most country hospitals":—

CHARTHAM ASYLUM, near Canterbury.—Wanted, BANDSMEN-ATTENDANTS. Two clarinet players and one euphonium player. Wages commence at £30 a year (no beer), with board, lodging, washing, uniform, &c.—Forms of application may be obtained from the Medical Superintendent.

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WE are glad to see that the Belfast City Coroner, Mr. E. S. Finnigan, has strongly condemned the condition of affairs at the Workhouse. At an inquest on the body of Alexander Canning, aged eleven days, who died in the institution Dr. Matson said that death was due to suffocation, probably the result of overlying. Margaret Nugent, one of the nurses of the workhouse, stated she had charge of 194 inmates. The Coroner asked if all the patients were sick, and when informed that all were under the doctor's care, he remarked, "This was a scandalous state of affairs, and ought not to exist in such an institution." The jury found that the cause of death was accidental suffocation, and added a rider to the effect that the nursing staff was insufficient, a nurse and a probationer being quite inadequate to take care of 194 patients. We should think so indeed!

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MISS POWELL, and the nurses of the Victoria Order who are moving under her superintendence into the Yukon country, are having quite a triumphal progress. In Canada the National Council of Women is already a practical working body, and at a meeting of the Local Council in Victoria, a telegram was read from the President, Lady Aberdeen, advising the Committee that the nurses would shortly be passing through Victoria. The Committee immediately decided to arrange for their reception and for a public meeting, so that an opportunity could be afforded of hearing of the progress of the Victorian Order in Eastern Canada, and of all the details of the nursing expedition to Klondike.

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As the Nurses had a few days to wait for the troops from Ottawa in whose charge they are being sent into the interior, they were most kindly entertained at Government House—also lunching with the Bishop and Miss Perrin,—where they were the guests of honour at a reception attended by a large number of ladies and gentlemen interested in this pioneer work. It was arranged that each of the Nurses should "say a few words," but they

backed down when they saw the size of the audience, and to Miss Fenton, the well-known lady journalist who accompanies the expedition, was left the duty of delivering an address. She was fully equal to the occasion, and delivered a most interesting little talk on the Victorian Order of Nurses.

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How is it that nurses are reported to love gossip, and that yet the idea of an intelligent speech in a public gathering seems to paralyze their vocal organs? It is time this silly self-consciousness was overcome by the members of a rising profession of sensible and heroic women.

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REFERRING especially to the mission of the four representatives of the Victorian Order to the Yukon, we think we are justified in saying that it is heroic. These ladies have consented to be banished from their homes for three years, to undertake arduous work under peculiarly arduous circumstances. They set out for the North as a sort of forlorn hope, and will carry with them the hearty sympathy of the whole community. Notwithstanding what has been said to the contrary, we believe the mission is a wise one. Statements have been made to the effect that it is unsafe to send women to the Yukon as nurses. On this point we venture a prophecy, namely, that so far as their treatment at the hands of the miners is concerned, these ladies will be as safe in any part of the Yukon as in the most respectable family circle in Canada. Rough men have gone North, but beneath the roughest exterior there is concealed almost always a chivalry towards women, that exhibits itself in emergencies, and life on the Yukon is one long emergency.

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THERE is, however, some personal risk and a certainty of toil, anxiety, discomfort, and possibly privation, attending the mission upon which these ladies are about to engage. But the work is necessary. The presence of women beside the sick bed or the couch of the dying, is one of the greatest agencies of civilization. The Golden North needs the influence of women, and Canada is to be congratulated that volunteers have come forward for the pioneer work.

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THE Annual Meeting of the Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, was held this year in the Nurses' Dining Room, on Thursday, 24th February, when about 200 guests responded to invitations issued. His Excellency the Governor presided, and there were present His Excellency the Admiral and Mrs. Pearson, the Hon. Dorothy Brand, the Mayor and Mayoress of Sydney, the Directors of the Hospital, the Misses Knox, Mrs. and Miss Fairfax, the Misses Stephen and many well-known Sydney people. The Governor in the course of his speech pointed

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)