

considerable discussion it was agreed that his Grace should be approached on the subject, Mr. Garside promising a donation of £1000 conditionally upon a suitable site being found in another part of the town. The Duke has now generously consented, subject to the approval of the majority of the subscribers, to give them the choice of two sites. The knotty question, therefore, which has considerably occupied the minds of the inhabitants of Worksop, is, we may hope, within measurable distance of solution.

The plans for the proposed New Infirmary, Glasgow, have now received the sanction of the Committee of the subscribers, and are to be submitted to the directors for their approval. The plans are prepared with a view to constructing the New Infirmary on the pavilion principle.

A deputation from the Executive Committee of the Irish Workhouse Association and the Philanthropic Reform Association waited recently upon the Chief Secretary, at Dublin Castle, with the view of requesting the Government to pay half the salaries of the certificated nurses who have recently replaced the pauper nurses, abolished by sealed order of the Local Government Board. Some interesting points were raised during the interview. For instance, the Chief Secretary inquired, not unnaturally, what was meant by a certificated nurse, and received the definition, "passing an examination, and getting a certificate for passing it." The term was further explained later on in the interview as applying to nurses who had trained in hospital for a definite period varying from one to three years, and whose knowledge, upon being tested by examination at the end of that period, was found to be satisfactory, and a certificate awarded. It is eminently satisfactory that the Philanthropic Reform Association should consider it necessary that at all times examination should precede certification, but we think that the period of experience, before a final examination, should not be less than three years. We commend to public attention the views of the gentleman who stated that he "never used the word 'nurse' in any sense save that of a person who receives a proper training, and a diploma from an examining body."

Dr. Henry Johnstone Campbell has been appointed Joint Lecturer on Forensic Medicine in the Medical Faculty of the Yorkshire College, Leeds.

The *British Medical Journal* records the fact of the satisfactory results obtained by M. Haffkine in his preventive inoculations against the plague. The striking statistics afford ample proof of this statement.

Mr. T. F. Blackwell, a Governor of St. Thomas's Hospital, has contributed £1000 for the purpose of endowing a bed in perpetuity.

This generous gift will be a most welcome addition to the funds of this institution, and is moreover a proof of the confidence of those in the best position to judge, in its management.

We give, on the opposite page, an engraving of the beautiful new hospital at Johannesburg, which is nursed by nuns and English nurses.

A Public and Professional Danger.

It will not be denied that we are passing through a time of extreme professional reaction, and in the nursing world the publication of a so-called "Official Nursing Directory," in which the names of many women who have no claim to the title of trained nurse appear, is the most retrograde step which could have been taken, and one which is calculated to inflict deep and serious injury upon trained nurses. For the past ten years, they have been struggling to obtain for themselves and the public some measure of protection from the untrained, unskilled and fraudulent persons who have adopted their uniform, their professional name, and their just fees, without a title of right to either, and who have, both by their ignorance and lack of principle, brought incalculable discredit upon the profession of nursing. But we have no hesitation in stating that the publication of "Burdett's Official Nursing Directory" will probably have the most beneficial results in proving to the public the urgent need for reform.

The first words in this discreditable publication are as follows:—

"The publication of a Nursing Directory of a strictly official and neutral character has long appeared to many of those who have considered the question, to be an undertaking which would be directly advantageous to the Nursing Profession, and would at the same time afford the public some measure of protection against those women, who, with little or no training worthy of the name, advertise themselves as competent attendants upon the sick."

And in the Preface, presumably written by the editor, Sir Henry Burdett, we find the following paragraph:—"What the Directory does is to state the facts as nearly as they can be ascertained. *Anyone possessing the Directory can ascertain the experience of training of each nurse whose name appears in it.*" The italics are ours. Casual observation of the first few columns proves that Sir Henry Burdett, in placing absolutely untrained women, and also semi-trained nurses, side by side with thoroughly trained nurses in an alphabetical list, has done all that he can to advertise and foist upon an ignorant and credulous public the very women "with little or no training worthy of the name, who advertise themselves as competent attendants upon the sick." We notice dozens of entries giving very insufficient information concerning the training of the persons named, which prove that this so-called Directory does not fulfil the most elementary uses of such a publication, and that the statement that "anyone possessing the Directory can ascertain the experience of training of each nurse whose name appears in it" is misleading. From a casual glance through a few columns we take the following typical entries from Sir Henry Burdett's Directory, omitting the names, to prove that un-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)