

Colney Hatch, £60 was laid out last year in providing accommodation for bicycles on the male and female side, and £10 5s. was spent at Hanwell on additions to the nurses' cycle shed.

THE Medical Superintendent says that the principal factor inducing insanity appears to be drink; then come worry, hereditary taint, overwork, and straitened circumstances, and, he adds: "It seems impossible to expect that any State supervision can effectually interfere to prevent any one of these causes acting. The suppression of public houses would lead to secret drinking. . . . We must look for the lessening of the causes of insanity in the better education and improved self-restraint of the people."

WE have always maintained that Matrons of Hospitals should be consulted as to the structural arrangements, when new buildings are contemplated, and we are very glad, therefore, to see that the Committee of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary have adopted this wise course. "New suggestions," says a contemporary, "as to the proposed rebuilding of Glasgow Royal Infirmary, have been received by the directors of the institution from the Matron, Dr. Thomas (superintendent), and the general staff, and will be considered at a special meeting of the directors to be held on an early date."

A MATRON has, as a rule, very definite ideas as to improvements—which may be considered almost necessities in the construction of hospitals—but they are rarely taken into consideration by a male committee. How often, for instance, are linen cupboards considered in the plans of a hospital? Do not expensive wooden cupboards have to be added as an afterthought, taking up valuable space in the wards and providing many ledges for housing the "wily microbe"? The microbe knows well that his chance of continued existence is greatly increased if once he finds his way to the top of a linen cupboard, and makes for it accordingly. What nurse has not mounted chairs, steps, or available tables; and with tea leaves, dust-pan and brush, and afterwards soap and water, struggled to keep clean the dust trap on the top of a linen cupboard?

SURELY the ideal linen-cupboard, which is a necessity of every ward, should be considered in building, and if not arranged with other offices in a passage leading to the ward, should be sunk in the wall, having a door absolutely flush with it, and with no ledges whatsoever. It should be provided with shelves formed of hot water coils, and have ample room for storing linen, blankets, quilts, and so on. Such a cupboard, besides being an inestimable convenience, would also greatly diminish the risk of theft, a constant anxiety at

present to Matrons and ward sisters, when large stocks of valuable linen are kept in ward cupboards having frequently indifferent locks.

THEN again, larger accommodation in connection with each ward is a pressing need, but seldom arranged for. We are all acquainted with cupboards in the wards in which food is kept, and with the ice box standing in the passage, with the milk pail by its side, crammed often to overflowing with such necessaries as beef tea, butter, Brand's essence, custard puddings, and so on. The sight of it should cause members of the Hospital Committee to reflect upon the inadequacy of their arrangements every time they pass had they not become so used to it, that it seemed quite the right thing to look for it, and they would probably enquire for it, thinking something was wrong if it disappeared.

THEN as to the nurses' quarters the Matron certainly knows best what is necessary, and required there, so that without entering into more details it will be seen that her advice on the structural arrangements of a hospital is of the highest value and importance.

MR. H. MEEK expressed some somewhat obsolete opinions at a recent meeting of the Yarmouth Board of Guardians. "Professional nurses were not," he said, "needed at the Workhouse, which was not a hospital, and the Board should revert to the former practice of appointing sensible, homely, middle-aged women to look after the patients, who suffered more from old age than anything else. They need not mind the Local Government Board, or its letters, unless the Department was prepared to defray the extra expense." What does the Local Government Board say to this?

THE question of the propriety of giving testimonials recently came before the Whitechurch Board of Guardians, when a nurse, who was leaving, applied for a testimonial. One member of the Board objected to officials receiving testimonials "to hawk about the country." Another moved that they should in future always give testimonials to officers leaving them, a good word cost nothing, and they, themselves, expected to receive them with applications. As to "hawking testimonials about the country," he did not see any harm in that; he supposed the statements made in them were true.

ARE they? They are not intentionally untrue, no doubt. But how often does a testimonial tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? For instance, here is a true testimonial: "Miss ——— has held the position of Ward Sister in this institution for three years. She is a thoroughly

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)