

no contract and no rights, as the lady paid for her board and lodging. If that construction were sound, anyone, not a traveller, but staying at an hotel at some one else's expense might be ejected at any time of the day or night. That would be unreasonable. All persons received at a hotel were entitled to reasonable notice to leave. The plaintiff therefore was entitled to recover at least nominal damages. He gave judgment for the plaintiff for 5s. and costs.

The question is of interest to nurses, because they are not unfrequently refused admission to hotels when they go to them in their professional uniform. We are, to some extent, in sympathy with hotel keepers on this point, because the British Public is so timorous that, to many members of it, the sight of a nurse in uniform means sickness in the hotel, and they decline to stay in the house in consequence. Hotel keepers, therefore, may suffer pecuniarily.

In the present case, however, it would not appear that her uniform was the reason of Miss Beatty's exclusion, which seemed arbitrary and unjust. We have no doubt that Miss Beatty was especially susceptible to the injury done her by such exclusion, on account of the feeling shown against her in her previous action against Dr. Cullingworth. She was certainly within her rights in bringing the present action, and this has been effectually proved by the judgment in her favour.

### The League of Mercy.

Since our last issue, an official notice has appeared in the *London Gazette* that the Prince of Wales has presented to her Majesty a petition "praying for the grant of a charter of incorporation to a body to be called 'The League of Mercy.'" The petition has been referred to a committee of the Lords of the Privy Council, and all petitions for or against the granting of the Charter, are to be delivered by October 28th.

The only daily paper which appears to possess any information on this subject is the *Morning Leader*, which states that upon inquiry it found that the "League of Mercy" is really the incorporation of the Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund, but that in establishing it the Prince intends to go far beyond the mere formal legal machinery, which would ensure the safety and permanence of the Hospital Fund. The League will not merely collect and control the Hospital Fund. The Charter, it is stated, will grant scope covering practically every form of distress, and the League will deal with poverty and misfortune as well as sickness. At first the operations are to be limited to London, but ultimately it is hoped that provincial towns will also form branches. Full membership of the League will be granted only to those who subscribe a fixed annual sum. We propose to deal fully with this question in a future issue.

### Nursing Echoes.

\* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



THE Committee of St. John's House, Norfolk Street, Strand, have decided to mark the Jubilee of the foundation of the institution by dividing annually a cash bonus amongst the members of the nursing staff. St. John's House is one of the pioneer training schools, and has always kept abreast of the times in the standard of nursing demanded of its staff, in addition to establishing traditions as to refinements and niceities in work which are not always found in some of the somewhat rough and ready training schools of the present day. It already offers to its nurses substantial advantages, as in addition to a good general training many of its staff receive fever and gynecological training, and the reputation of its maternity nurses is second to none. The nurses at present receive a fixed salary, with a percentage on their earnings, they have a most comfortable house, have no anxiety between their cases, and if they are ill they receive every care and consideration, as well as being entitled to a pension if unable to work at the end of twelve years' service. For the future, at the end of each year the Auditors will be requested to certify the amount of the surplus on the years' earnings. Of this surplus, one quarter is to be divided in equal shares amongst the nurses, and the remainder will, as formerly, be used for strengthening the Pension Fund.

The first distribution under this scheme will be made early next year, based upon the results of the year ending December 31st, 1898.

We heartily congratulate the committee of St. John's House upon this decision.

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SINCE the publication last week of the replies from the Hon. Members in relation to the hospitality offered by the Matrons' Council for the Great Congress week next year, our readers will be pleased to learn that Mrs. Grace Neill, Assistant Inspector of Hospitals, the Representative of the Council, in New Zealand, has notified that she will be in Europe next summer, and that she hopes to be our guest and attend the Congress. This is, indeed, good news.

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It will be remembered that a few years ago Mrs. Neill placed before the Executive Committee of the British Nurses' Association a masterly

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