

WOMEN RESIDENTS.

A matter touching upon the work of medical women has been brought up in the *Glasgow Herald* by a student, and is worthy of consideration, namely, the question whether in rebuilding the Royal Infirmary, in that city, accommodation should not be provided for women residents. Undoubtedly, as a matter of justice, in a hospital which admits women students, arrangements should be made by which those who show special aptitude should be able to take house appointments, and now that women have a recognised place in the medical profession, we hope that all hospitals, in making arrangements for the accommodation of their medical staff, will take into consideration the necessity of providing for the accommodation of women as well as men. Perhaps St. Bartholomew's, when it rebuilds its college, will show the way by making this necessary reform.

FLOATING HOSPITALS.

HOSPITAL ships seem to be becoming more and more popular, wherever they can be utilised, and it is interesting to learn that arrangements have been made by the Rangoon Municipality to procure a loan of a river flat from the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company. This flat will be properly fitted up to meet the requirements of a hospital, and will be anchored in the river. The lower deck of the flat is being lime-washed from stem to stern, while the upper one will be similarly treated. The top portion has been matted in and equipped with other necessary arrangements. Lying alongside this flat is another, but smaller flat-bottom boat, which will be utilised for disinfecting apparatus. To answer this purpose it has been equipped at one end with a machine and large boiler for generating steam, which will escape through a number of pipes into three reservoirs specially fitted up for facilitating the work of disinfection. At the opposite end two cells have been built, into which a pair of trollies will be run from the reservoirs with the infected linen, which will undergo a further process of disinfection under steam in an enclosed cell. The steamer *Talifu* is also being fitted up in the Rangoon river as a hospital, while on the bank will be a segregation camp. The steamer will serve as a hospital for the whole town. These floating hospitals are to be nursed by English trained nurses.

Medical Matters.**THE PLAGUE.**

RECENT revivals of this dreaded disease in India and elsewhere have brought the subject once more into great and deserved prominence. Professor Koch has recently delivered an address dealing especially with an outbreak of the disease in German East Africa. He pointed out that the plague is now known to be caused by a specific bacillus, and that most valuable information has been obtained, and would be utilised in the near future, in the direction of preventing, as well as treating, the disease. It is well understood that rats play so important a part in the dissemination of the Plague that it may almost, without exaggeration, be stated that it is a rat-conveyed disease. Professor Koch dealt at some length with the old question as to the ultimate origin of epidemics. Formerly, it was believed that wherever dirt and social misery were found, there outbreaks might occur. There are, however, places where it has been endemic from the earliest times, and from these it has been transplanted into new districts which had previously been free from infection. The earliest outbreak was traced back to Mesopotamia, and in that country the plague has never entirely disappeared. There has always been much debate concerning the origin of the Chinese plague. It is known that there is an endemic centre in Hunan, and another in Tibet, and that the latest outbreaks in China, as well as in India, had their origin in the latter country. There is again a third centre on the west coast of Arabia, in the vicinity of Mecca, which has an especial importance in view of the numerous pilgrimages to that historic spot. Beyond these well-known centres, however, Professor Koch now claims to have discovered a fourth in Equatorial Africa. He heard that a devastating disease existed close to the Victoria Nyanza, and proceeding there he was enabled to identify it as bubonic Plague of a most fatal and virulent character; and once more proved that human epidemics frequently, if not invariably, are preceded by an outbreak of the disease among rats. It is feared that plague is endemic in Uganda, and that as this becomes connected with the coast, the extension of plague may be

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