

has been appointed doctor to the hospital. The opening of this hospital was the last public function performed by the Countess of Elgin before leaving India for England.

The Prince of Wales has consented to act as President of the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption. His Royal Highness left town last week for Sandringham, and returned to London on Monday, to fulfil his engagement to preside, on Tuesday, at the delivery of the Hunterian oration by Sir William McCormac, at which he was accorded an enthusiastic reception.

A concert, under the patronage of Princess Louise, Marchioness of Lorne, was given at St. James' Hall last week, in aid of the Grosvenor Hospital for Women and Children, and, as the room was well filled, it may be hoped that a considerable sum will be handed over to the institution.

The sixty-third annual meeting of St. Mark's Hospital was held last week at the Mansion House, when the Secretary pleaded for more funds to enable the Committee to do the good work of which the Hospital was capable. He stated that the Hospital had last year no grant from the Prince of Wales' Fund. He was the last one to impugn the integrity and honour of the committee of that fund, but he thought the object of the fund was to benefit the whole of the London hospitals. It seemed to him, however, that the big hospitals got the bulk of the money subscribed, and he considered it was not right that their institution should be left out in the cold. They had lost many subscriptions and donations owing to persons being unable to give both to the charity and the Prince of Wales's Fund.

At a meeting of the medical committee of the Brompton Hospital it has been resolved that the new treatment of tuberculosis be tried at the Brompton Hospital, and the subject is now under consideration by the committee of management, together with the establishment of a sanatorium in the country, for which funds are urgently needed.

A correspondent in the Birmingham *Daily Post* states that there is practically no provision in Birmingham for grappling with diphtheria. It is excluded from the Isolation Hospital of the Corporation, and, beyond the fact that a ward is set apart for cases of this nature at the Children's Hospital, and an occasional case finds its way into one of the General Hospitals, no provision is made for its treatment. This is a serious deficiency in the arrangements of the Health Department of the Corporation, and one which should receive immediate attention if the city is to maintain its progressive reputation.

The official announcement is made that the Emperor of Russia has, from his private purse, paid into the treasury of the Russian Red Cross Society the sum of 1,000,000 roubles, to be used in assisting the peasants who are suffering from the failure of the harvest in 1898.

## Professional Review.

### NOTES ON SURGERY FOR NURSES.

WE have received from the publishers, Messrs. Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co., a copy of the fifth edition of "Notes on Surgery for Nurses," by Dr. Joseph Bell, Consulting Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, and the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh. The book is a popular one with nurses, and has before been reviewed in these columns. We propose to deal principally, therefore, with the appendix, published in the present edition, "On the Relation of the Trained Nurse to the Profession and the Public." It is a significant indication of the amount of attention which is being accorded to the organisation of trained nursing, and of the important position to which trained nurses have attained in the body politic, that the author of a purely technical handbook considers it necessary to add a special chapter on this subject. As Dr. Bell states:—"in the early Victorian era, nursing was a trade despised, and felt to be a last resource of drudges too old, or too plain, or too drunken, for service in the parlour or the kitchen. Now it is a profession entered willingly in their youth by hundreds, indeed thousands, of well educated and selected women of all ranks, from peasantry, and through the professional class to the peerage.—These women rapidly acquire the *esprit de corps*, pride in their profession, and disciplined self restraint, which such a training is certain to engender." It is not surprising, therefore, that the nurse of the present day is not content with the position accorded to the "hired charwoman," or the "drunken drudge," whose place she has taken, and Dr. Bell truly records that "the profession of nursing is assuming a position not at all unlike, only a century or two behind, what evolution has made the profession of medicine. As yet there is no State Register on which every qualified nurse's name must be found, but already a register of nurses under the auspices of an association with a Royal Charter is being formed, and who knows what another half century may bring forth?" Dr. Bell is evidently unacquainted with the great betrayal of trust announced this month by the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses Association, but his remarks are valuable as showing the drift of events, and the world will not stand still because of the faithlessness of this Association to its fundamental principle.

With regard to the duty of a nurse to the medical profession, more especially in the case of a private nurse, Dr. Bell makes many wise remarks; but in speaking of the legal actions raised recently by nurses it is to be regretted that he permits himself to sneer at a woman because "a most distinguished surgeon had—so she fancied—removed more of her precious person than she had expected he meant to remove." Our readers will agree with us, that the tone of this remark is unworthy of a medical man of some repute.

In his remarks on a nurse's relations to the public, Dr. Bell touches on the injury done to nurses by designing women, who use the nurse's uniform and the nurse's name, both as a provocation and a disguise; for their follies and sins the profession is held responsible, as it also bears the blame if a young woman in a poorhouse, too stupid to get a place as a general servant, boils a baby or poisons an old woman.

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