

probity of the medical profession in the matter of receiving secret commissions, and that the Council call upon the London Chamber of Commerce to substantiate such accusations, in order that the Council may be in a position, should such practices exist, emphatically to condemn them as a grave breach of professional conduct, and inconsistent with the membership of the British Medical Association." In the face of the challenge thrown out by the British Medical Association it would be interesting to know what steps the Chamber of Commerce proposes to take towards substantiating these very grave charges.

As Superintendent of a Home Hospital we can testify to the ghoul-like attentions of the genus undertaker, and we well remember a member of the tribe calling upon us in the hope of "securing our custom." "We don't intend to have any custom if we can avoid it," we replied, whereupon, with the most unctuous of smiles, we were informed "that accidents will happen, even in the best regulated Homes," and his men knew all the tricks of the trade, and had practised a most cat-like tread a watch-dog couldn't hear them, and the vehicle would come after dark and wait round the corner, and then "ow can I make it worth your while?" Some ladies preferred to take it out in gloves, and others, ahem! in silken hose, whilst a turkey at Christmas or —" But we did not get any further.

The front door slammed.

We regret to say that many private nurses do not hesitate to take these objectionable bribes; but then, unfortunately, we have now no professional Association jealous of the honour of our cloth, analogous to the influential British Medical Association.

THE Registration Board of the R.B.N.A. still continues to take guineas from the unwary, although the Register will no longer be printed, and accepts nurses who have failed to obtain the certificate of their Training School, thereby encouraging incapacity and supporting such women in opposition to those who have worked earnestly for this guarantee of efficiency. This is one more proof of the active opposition of the present managers of the R.B.N.A. to the just interests of trained and certificated nurses.

THE Wakefield Victoria Nursing Institute appears to be in a more prosperous financial condition than most similar societies. On the occasion of the first annual meeting presided over by Archdeacon Donne, Mr. F. Dacre Mackie reported that of £1,649 paid over to four trustees

£1,230 had been invested, and £391 17s. 10d. was in the bank.

THE report of the Committee of the Northern Workhouse Association affords ample proof of the need of such a society. During the past year the Association received 54 applications from Boards of Guardians, and was able to respond to 37, 32 of the posts being filled by nurses trained by the Association. The Committee regret that they are unable to keep pace with the demands made upon them for nurses. The majority of their nurses have been engaged several months in advance, and it is an unusual occurrence for a nurse to be out of employment or waiting engagement, as each year their work is more appreciated by Boards of Guardians. They also draw attention to the fact that the best kind of nurses will not be attracted unless suitable arrangements are made for their accommodation. They are of opinion that if Boards of Guardians would provide their nurses with comfortable apartments, fair salaries, and reasonable conditions of service, there would be no lack of well trained, intelligent, and sympathetic nurses.

AN interesting ceremony in connection with the nursing branch of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, has just taken place at the Curragh Camp. Quite lately was published a facsimile of the badge of this Society, which all "Alexandra" nurses would in future be entitled to wear under this new designation. Nurse Diamond has been the first to receive this public recognition of her six years' devoted service amongst the soldiers' wives and families at the Curragh. Viscountess Downe presided at the meeting, made a short speech, and read a congratulatory telegram from the Council of the S.S.F.A.; after which Miss Combe, as President of the Curragh branch of the Association, presented Nurse Diamond with a silver medal, which bears an excellent likeness of the Princess of Wales on the obverse and the name of the Association on the reverse.

AN interesting outcome of the example of the United States in equipping an ambulance ship under Red Cross regulations is that Austria has followed in its footsteps. This excellent step is, however, due to private initiative, the ship having been given by the Baron von Reinelt in commemoration of the jubilee of the Emperor. It has been entrusted to the care of the Austrian Red Cross Society, and by special desire of the Emperor it has been named the Graf Falkenhayn, after the first President of the Society. The steamer has an estimated speed of nine knots an

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)