

of their patients who are habitual communicants shall not die uncommunicated. It is often a most difficult point to decide whether such a patient shall be advised to make his communion or not, but if the former custom is restored, which is "much to be wished," the clergy can then be acquainted whenever a parishioner becomes worse, and desires the last offices of the Church, and a point of much difficulty both to clergy, doctors, and nurses, will have been solved. Nurses will watch with great interest the effect of this petition, a petition so reasonable that there seems to be nothing to say against it.

MISS LUCAS, the Matron of the London Temperance Hospital, was last week "At Home" to the Members of the Deaconesses' and Nurses' National Total Abstinence Leagues, and many of those invited availed themselves of the opportunity of visiting this excellently appointed Hospital. The meeting was of entirely a social character, and solo singing added much to the enjoyment of the guests. Miss Lucas, Alderman Vezey Strong, and Captain Sheffield conducted the party round the Hospital, and much admiration was expressed, particularly with regard to the Children's Ward. Before the guests separated, a vote of thanks was passed to Miss Lucas and the Hospital Board for the pleasure afforded to them.

WE referred last week to the undeniable fact that undertakers offer commissions to nurses in return for "their custom" or recommendation, and now we learn that the Council of the British Institute of Undertakers on Tuesday evening discussed the statement in the report of the London Chamber of Commerce that it is a common practice among doctors to recommend undertakers to relatives of deceased patients. Several cases were cited in which doctors had demanded commission on orders for funerals. It was further stated that the recommendations of medical men were sometimes secured in exchange for the supply of a brougham for the conveyance of the doctor on his rounds. A resolution was passed to the effect that the council and members of the institute were opposed to all such commissions, and the secretary was instructed to send a protest to the London Chamber of Commerce stating that the council would gladly render any assistance in exposing such practices. The council of the British Medical Association, it will be remembered, passed a resolution calling on the London Chamber of Commerce to substantiate their statement.

WE can only recommend to nurses to refuse to accept any gifts or commissions whatever from the tradesmen with whom they have to deal. It is a very questionable proceeding, absolutely un-

professional, and can only place a nurse in an indefensible position; moreover, it is not strictly honest.

MR. SIDNEY E. NIXON, of Headingley, Leeds, presumably a nonconformist, has justice on his side, when he protests in the press against hospital committees disqualifying women for the post of Matron because they do not belong to the Church of England. He cites the late advertisement for a Matron at the Hospital for Consumption, Brompton, which stated that applicants must be members of the Church of England, and this he considers denotes the Brompton Hospital as a sectarian institution, and claims that under these circumstances it has no right to receive subscriptions from Free Churchmen. Last year Mr. Nixon says it received £1,344 from the London Hospital Fund, and yet no nonconformist is eligible for the post of Matron. This is sense, either a hospital should be strictly unsectarian, when it can with a clear conscience receive the donations of all sects, or it should be financed by the religious body it supports, as are the Roman Catholic charities.

WE find, upon enquiry at several large hospitals and infirmaries, that a very insufficient number of warm flannel dressing gowns are supplied for the use of the patients—no doubt the reason being that they are expensive garments to provide in large quantities. The fact is every patient who "gets up" requires a dressing gown, and we well remember wards containing some dozen patients where one cotton gown was provided for ward use. The question as to who should have the use of the dressing gown was naturally a burning one with convalescent patients.

WE were quite surprised to find in Athens warm dressing gowns of most comfortable shape and bright appearance, provided for each patient in the hospitals for the wounded, and, moreover, to be obtained at a very reasonable rate; pyjamas were also *de rigueur* for Greek patients, and the skimpy shirts provided in England, with the resulting *exposé* of bare leg whenever a patient gets out of bed in this country, would have horrified the poorest Greek soldier. We commend this need to Miss Lamport, Hon. Secretary of the "Flannel Shirt Club." Could not her society extend its "sphere of influence" to dressing gowns and pyjamas for hospital patients?

MISSES Ward, Isabel Carter, and E. K. Nevill, left Liverpool on Saturday in the *Sokoto*, for the Niger Coast, for service with the West African Frontier Force. Captain C. J. Melliss, Captain H. C. Biss, Dr. McDowell, Dr. Hunter, and Lieutenants Wilson, Willans, and Phillips, also

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