

staff. The need of a Nurses' Home was becoming more urgent, and should, they urged, be no longer delayed. As a temporary measure they recommended that steps be taken to rent the house adjoining those occupied by the probationers in Brook Street, or, failing this, that effect be given to their recommendation of April 7th, viz., that arrangements be made with a householder in Brook Street to provide four of the nursing staff with sleeping accommodation.

THIS question of inadequate and unsuitable accommodation for nurses is, and has been, one of the chief difficulties to many matrons, in establishing an efficient nursing staff, and it is one which should be dealt with at the very outset by Governors of hospitals, if they intend to organize a nursing school in connection with their institution. We hope the Lambeth Guardians will press forward with this necessary reform, and provide a first-class nursing home for their nurses. Much has been done of late years at this infirmary to provide efficient nursing for the patients.

A HUMANE physician writes to the *Irish Times* and says: "Are you aware that it is almost impossible to get a deserving case of illness into a Dublin hospital during the summer months? If you send a case for admission you are told that "only a ward or so is in use—the place is being painted," etc. Surely this is not right? The poor cannot time their illnesses to coincide with the opening or continuance of the medical terms. Sickness is bad enough even in a first-class hospital, but sickness in a hot and stifling tenement room, and in this weather, is unspeakable; and in many cases there may be only two rooms to the family, sometimes only one. Surely means can be taken to keep, say, half the hospital accommodation open."

THIS question is becoming one of greater importance every year, not only to the Dublin poor, but to the toiling millions of London, and we think it is a question with which the Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund might well busy itself.

WE drew attention last summer to the fact that the *Middlesex Hospital* was entirely closed "for cleaning" for several weeks in the summer, and we are informed that several of the London Hospitals, instead of cleaning ward by ward, and thus showing consideration for the poor and suffering at their gates, are this year closing *entirely* for eight and ten weeks at a stretch, and all at the same time. It is, no doubt, necessary that the head officials should

take holidays, but these holidays should also be taken in rotation, and there is no excuse for the entire menage to flit for the entire months of August and September. The poor are much in need of our hospitals during these exhausting hot months.

THE resignation of the Matronship of the Luton Bute Hospital by Miss Babcock, has been received by the Committee of that Institution with most gratifying expressions of appreciation and regret, and the Committee, desirous of showing their goodwill to the Matron, whose services have been so valuable to the Hospital for eight years, intend presenting her with a handsome testimonial.

WE wonder if the following manner of engaging nurses, by the Ormskirk Guardians, is usual in the "north countree." The following little scene appears in the *Southport Visitor*:—

"APPOINTMENT OF AN ASSISTANT NURSE.  
The next business was the appointment of an assistant nurse. A committee who had gone into the applications had selected six, and five of these appeared before the board. Four of the candidates were from Southport and Ormskirk, one from Preston, and one from Colne. They were brought singly before the Board, and were catechised as follows:—The Chairman: You are So-and-so? Applicant: Yes. The Chairman: What age are you? Applicant: Twenty-four. A Member: Not thirty-four? (Laughter.) Applicant: No. The Chairman: Have you had much experience of nursing? Applicant: Yes (or no, as the case might be). A Member: Of course you are single? Applicant: O, yes. A Member (to the chairman): While you are at it you may as well ask her if she is vaccinated? (Laughter.) The Chairman: Are you vaccinated? A Lady Member: I should hope she isn't. (Laughter.) The Member who suggested the question: There you are, you see. (Laughter.) The Applicant, confused, said first she hoped she was vaccinated, and then said she thought she was. When she had gone, one member of the Board facetiously remarked that they had forgotten to ask whether she was a teetotaler."

At the Llanwrst County Court last week, before Sir Horatio Lloyd, Mary Elizabeth Holland, a professional nurse, of Lloyd Street, Llandudno, claimed damages from and asked for an injunction to prevent Jessie Bremnar, Leville Hotel, Llandudno, from practising in that town as a nurse. Mr. Johnson appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. Corbett for the defendant. Plaintiff, who keeps a nurses' home, took defendant as an apprentice, and an agreement was drawn up in December, 1897, under which defendant signed to stay with plaintiff for four years, and after that period not to practise as a nurse within four miles of Llandudno. The arrangement worked smoothly for some time, but on returning from

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