

and outbuildings, and others are living on the charity of Mahommedans, from whom they receive food and clothing, coming to the hospital to be treated as out-patients. From my own observation as regards charity, the Mahommedans, in their quiet, unostentatious manner of giving relief, practically not letting their left hand know what the right hand has done, teach us Christians a good lesson. An earthly recompense is not looked for by them. The poorest man can enter a Mahommedan house and ask for a meal; he will not be sent away fasting, and will generally receive something for the following day. This is absolutely true, and shows that Mahommedans are not the monsters of cruelty they are painted."

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INCIDENTALLY we notice the dangers of ill-health incurred by British Agents in the performance of their duty. Sir Lloyd Mathews casually mentions that for five months of the year he was very ill with malarial fever, and later he reports: "I am sorry to inform you, that Mr. Last, Zanzibar Commissioner, has been advised to take six months' leave, as he is suffering from the effects of many expeditions over the island, ending in almost blood poisoning from Jiggers, which brought his feet to such a state that they will not heal in this climate."

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NEVERTHELESS, Government Officials work bravely on, as do also the members of the various missions at work in East Africa. In his official report to Sir Lloyd Mathews, Mr. J. P. Farler, writing from Pemba, says: "I cannot speak too highly of the medical work done by Miss Armitage and her brother in charge of the Friends' Mission in Chaki Chaki. Daily she has dispensed medicines to the sick, and advised me of any destitute sick who needed help from the Government."

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ONCE more it is our painful duty to record the death of a nurse from suicide. An inquest was recently held at Derby on the body of Janet Kingston, aged 22, a nurse at a private hospital for women in that town, who died as the result of strychnine poisoning. The evidence showed that the deceased nurse suffered from religious mania. A verdict of suicide during temporary insanity was returned by the jury. The frequency with which cases of suicide of trained nurses have been reported of recent years points to the necessity for a careful selection of probationers from amongst the mentally strong only, and also for regulating the work of nurses with a view to avoiding the overstrain caused by long hours and much anxiety.

## The Hospital World.

### THE BETHNAL-GREEN INFIRMARY.

CLOSE to Cambridge Heath Station is London's latest Poor Law Infirmary, designed on the most modern sanitary principles, and capable of accommodating over 700 patients. The building is now complete, and the Guardians propose to ask the Prince of Wales to open it. They may justly be proud of their new infirmary, which is in every way worthy of the purpose for which it is intended. We hope, however, that the nursing arrangements will be organized on such lines that the greatest good may result to the patients. We have, on at least one occasion previously, visited a poor law infirmary, most liberally planned for the well being of the sick, and have subsequently had reason to believe that the good which might have been accomplished has been in a large measure frustrated, owing to a want of discipline in nursing matters. We cannot too earnestly express our conviction that in all hospitals and infirmaries the comfort and well being of the patients, and we may go so far as to add, the reputation of the institution, depends largely upon the efficiency of the nursing staff, and this, again, depends upon the Matron. If this official be given the necessary authority to enforce discipline, provided she herself makes the well being of the patients her first consideration, and is a good organizer, the nursing will be conducted in a way to redound to the credit of the Guardians; but no one, man or woman, can make bricks without straw, and no Matron can efficiently control a large staff of nurses unless she has the support of the Guardians and the power to enforce legitimate authority. We are not in any way reflecting upon the Bethnal Green Guardians, our remarks are entirely general, but we have so often seen Guardians founder on this rock, and the sick suffer in consequence, that we feel impelled to point out a very real danger, hoping that it may be avoided by a Board of Guardians who have shown themselves so concerned for the sick in their charge as to build a model infirmary.

The administrative block of the infirmary, which forms the centre, is approached by a handsome entrance hall with tessellated floor and steps with a marble balustrade on either side. The walls have a dado of coloured tiles. Here are rooms for the chief medical officer, the Matron and nurses' quarters, besides a private room for the chaplain, and the steward's office, and store rooms. There is also a well arranged dispensary

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)