

modious one at No. 3, Botanic Avenue. It is connected with the central home by a private telephone, and its cheerful neighbourhood is appreciated by our nurses, but the rent, house-keeping, and salaries of this separate establishment are a heavy extra expense."

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THE record of valuable work done in the past year by the Belfast Nurses' Home ought to recommend it to the liberality of those who can afford to support it. Within the past thirteen years the staff at the Belfast Nurses' Home has increased from 50 to 105. And yet there is urgent need for further development. During the past year, 483 private cases were attended to by the nurses sent out from this institution, yet no fewer than 106 cases had to be refused, as no disengaged nurses were available. This at any rate serves to show that the Home possesses the confidence both of the medical profession and of the public. The past year's work closed with a debit balance of £513. This is not as it should be, and it is to be hoped the Home will be more generously supported in the immediate future.

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THE Directors of the Strangers' Hospital, Rio de Janeiro, evidently realise the value of good nurses. Speaking of the work of the nursing staff of the Hospital during the past year, they say:—"The manner in which the members of the staff have done their work and deported themselves generally during the year has been most satisfactory, and is deserving of honourable mention by the Directors. This is especially gratifying since the reputation and efficiency of the Hospital depends so largely upon these persons." The Directors have not always been so fortunate as they are at present in their nursing staff, and they are, therefore, able to gauge both the good and the harm which nurses may do to the institution with which they are connected.

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THE report also refers with regret to the death of Sister Hutchinson, which our readers will remember took place in May last. We read of her:—"She was an efficient nurse, and had been faithful in the performance of all her duties. She was held in high esteem by her associates and friends, and her death was a great loss to the community." The friends and colleagues of Sister Hutchinson at the Lewisham Infirmary will be glad to know that though her career at the Strangers' Hospital was, unfortunately, of short duration, she had won the respect and esteem of those with whom she was associated in her new work.

The Hospital World.

THE HOSPITALS AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS OF NEW ZEALAND.

THE Report, in the form of a Blue Book, presented by Dr. MacGregor, M.A., M.B., M.G., Inspector of Asylums and Hospitals in New Zealand to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency, is most interesting reading. It will be remembered that in New Zealand the hospitals are partially supported, and are inspected, by Government and that Mrs. Grace Neill, whom English nurses had the pleasure of meeting at the International Congress in June, is Assistant Inspector to Dr. MacGregor, whose report opens as follows:—

The Inspector of Hospitals and Charitable Institutions to the Hon. the Minister of Education.

SIR,—Last year I went fully into the general problem of the management of our hospitals. This year I have judged it best to give Mrs. Neill the opportunity of setting forth independently the conclusions she has drawn from her experience of our charitable institutions.

MRS. NEILL'S REPORT.

Mrs. Neill's Report is exhaustive and masterly, dealing with the constitution and control of the Charitable Aid Boards, and separate institutions (including twenty-two hospitals) with which she is concerned in her work. The maintenance of hospitals and benevolent institutions is provided partly by local rates, partly by the Government subsidy thereon, and partly by voluntary contributions. We are told that for the incorporation of a "separate institution" it must show that it is supported partly or wholly by the voluntary contributions of not less than 100 persons, amounting annually to £100. Practically, however, this voluntary contribution often bears a very small proportion to the total expenditure—for instance, one institution expended £7,759, of which the voluntary contributions were £54, and another £10,736, of which £344 were voluntary contributions. This being the case, it would be supposed that the Government and the District Boards would have considerable representation in the management of such institutions, but Mrs. Neill points out that this is not the case. She writes:—"The outcome of this dual method is that a District Charitable Aid Board levies requisite funds by rating, and receives a subsidy from the consolidated revenue of £1 for £1 on these rates, and if poor relief is dealt with by a 'separate institution,' i.e., a Benevolent Society, the District Board hands over to its Trustees the amount they apply for, and has no further responsibility. The Government, out of consoli-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)