

300), and Miss Emily Burke gained 226 marks. Both nurses were members of the staff of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, and each was awarded a silver medal.

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YEAR after year, reports of hospitals and nursing societies are brought to our notice, and we notice that progress on just lines is being effected in the majority of these institutions. It was quite common, a few years ago, for hospitals to absorb the greater part of the earnings of their private nursing staff, using the nurses' earnings to support the charity, but failing to give these ladies any receipt for the same. Indeed, one popular private nurse told us that she calculated that, during her five years' connection with one of our most important London hospitals, she had paid in absorbed earnings nearly £200, "enough," as she remarked, "to have been elected as Governor six times over"!

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THE same system was in full swing in connection with unattached Private Nursing Institutions. Mainly the large proportion of the district nursing of the town was paid for by the earnings of the private nurses over and above their meagre salary. We are pleased, therefore, to observe that the injustice of this arrangement is by degrees being realised by the philanthropic persons who, in country places, constitute committees.

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WE note that, at the annual meeting of the Kent and Canterbury Nurses' Institute, it was stated in the report of the General Committee that:—"The Committee have thought it advisable to give in this year's report a separate account of the receipts and expenditure of the district nursing, which is the charitable side of the Institute's work, to which the subscriptions and donations and offertories are devoted. A glance at it will show that the expenses exceed the receipts, and therefore that the Institute deserves increased support from subscribers and donors."

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WE hope this does not mean that the deficiency was made up out of the nurses' fees, as the report states that their bonus this year is only to be 10s. per year's service, instead of £1 which was awarded last year. We learn that this institution only exacts a term of two years' training for its nursing staff. We hope, before another report is issued, that a three years' standard of training will be adopted.

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THE twenty-fourth annual report of the Leeds Trained Nurses' Association was presented at last week's annual meeting. The work, it pointed out, had been carried on during the year with undiminished activity and usefulness. The number

of cases undertaken had been 1,047, but 350 had to be refused in consequence of no nurse being at liberty when application was made. Notwithstanding the largely increased provision for nursing in the city, the Committee had to regret that it was at times impossible to supply the demand for nurses from the institution. There were now 99 engaged in private nursing, and 12 probationers in training in hospitals. The Committee were fortunate in being still able to secure the necessary training at some of the best hospitals in London and the provinces, as well as in Edinburgh. Twelve nurses had left the institution during the year, some to be married, others for work elsewhere. After careful inquiry as to the custom elsewhere under similar circumstances, the Committee early in the year deemed it right to raise the salaries paid to the nurses considerably. This had involved a proportionate rise in the fees for nursing, which the Committee were reluctantly obliged to adopt. The district nursing branch continued to increase in extent and usefulness, and there were now eighteen districts covered by the work. The number of cases attended during the year was 2,903, and 58,308 visits were paid. The balance of profits this year had been appropriated between the Leeds Trained Nurses' Institution Trust Fund of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses and the Leeds District Nursing Association.

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HERE again it would appear as if the private nurses in part maintained the district nursing branch. If so, it is quite inexcusable that in the wealthy city of Leeds this tax for nursing the sick poor should be compulsorily exacted from the earnings of a class of hard-working women like trained nurses, because its millionaire citizens fail to provide sufficient funds.

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AN idea prevails extensively that ladies, in seeking employment, keep an eye on the matrimonial chances attaching to proffered situations. This view found expression at the last meeting of the Colchester Poor-Law Guardians, for when the clerk mentioned that it was necessary once more to advertise for a Superintendent Nurse for the Workhouse Infirmary, a member of the Board suggested that a postscript should be added to the effect that there were "still a few widowers left." This sally provoked much merriment, the explanation being that the last two ladies who had filled the position of Superintendent Nurse had abandoned the post for the purpose of marrying widowers who were members of the Board. At a previous meeting it was advised that, in engaging ordinary nurses, they should be told, as an inducement, that the women so employed at the Workhouse usually left to get married.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)