

WE know that, of late years, much increased expenditure has been undertaken to make the nursing department more efficient, and the nurses more comfortable, with the acknowledged improvement in the health of the nursing staff. But we should like a little information about that hundred pounds contributed from the profits by the private nurses towards the hospital funds. Of course, if the Private Nurses' Home was built by the Committee from the general funds, they are right to repay the interest of the capital sum used; otherwise, if founded with money specially given for the purpose, all the profits, after expenses are paid, should be given to those who earn them.

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THE Chiswick Board of Guardians continue to wrangle over the question of the selection of probationers—some of them objecting to the Matron having this power. A Matron should have power of selection, and should report to a Nursing Committee of Guardians or the Board, who should retain the right of appointment of all officers. Discipline and fair play can only be attained by this system.

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THE fourth annual nurses' "At Home," organized by the Very Rev. the Dean of Glasgow and the Rev. A. C. Laughlin, took place in the Trades' Hall, Glassford Street, on Tuesday evening last week. The dance, which began at half-past seven and lasted till twelve, so as to make it possible for both day and night nurses to attend, was unanimously pronounced to be even more successful than those of former years. The hospitals and nursing institutions of Glasgow were represented by over 200 nurses, many of them in their very becoming uniforms. A good many doctors were also present, and altogether the number of guests was so large that the ball-room was filled to overflowing, and it was agreed that if the dance were held another year it would have to be in St. Andrew's Halls.

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THE fact that the nurses wore their uniform at this function shows their sense, as one of the complaints in relation to nurses' balls is that, if evening gowns are worn, they are a source of great expense to nurses; indeed, we have heard many funny stories on this point.

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WE know for a fact that one probationer at a London Infirmary pawned some jewelry *through a scrubber*, to pay for her ball dress, and another hired a gown for which she never paid.

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ACCORDING to official reports, about 550 men have died from enteric fever and disease among the forces serving in South Africa.

## The Hospital World.

### ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE ROYAL SOUTH HANTS AND SOUTHAMPTON HOSPITAL.

The Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital renovations were commenced in 1896, not 1898 as stated last week. They were undertaken in the following order:—New laundry, new infectious cottage, new operating block and alterations, the main building—undertaken simultaneously, new mortuary, new block of two wards of 25 beds each.

It will thus be seen that much has been done, but the Nursing Home, which is in a very wretched condition, still requires to be tackled. However, the Committee hope to be able to undertake it at no very distant date.

The new laundry is a steam laundry, fitted with all the newest improvements, washing machines, wringers, drying chambers, large calendar, ironing stoves, and so forth. It consists of a boiler and engine room, a sorting room with tanks for foul linen, a wash house, drying room, large ironing room, and sorting room. Behind the laundry is a large disinfector for mattresses, pillows, clothes, and so forth, worked by super-heated steam. Beside the disinfector is a destructor with a high chimney and a strong draught, in which are burnt all the soiled dressings and rubbish. Adjoining the laundry are coal and coke sheds, engineer's workshops, and so forth. All this is in the hospital grounds, but in the extreme south corner, not far from the laundry, is the isolation block, containing two wards, nurse's bedroom and kitchen, two lavatories with patent sluice-pans, very complete, surrounded by a grass plot and enclosed by a railing. Since the new laundry has been built it has been possible to do away entirely with the old dirty plan of requiring patients to bring their own shirts and towels and have them washed outside. All is now provided and washed for them.

The alterations in the main building are very extensive and difficult to explain to those who did not know the old building; but perhaps matrons who are blessed with old County Hospitals built in the thirties will understand the gist of the matter. Suffice it to say that four muddy little impossible wards, with impossible lavatory accommodation were swept clean away. The two small wards left were supplied with small, but up-to-date, lavatories, sluice pans, &c. Two wards with insufficient light and ventilation were supplied with new windows—new fireplaces (Teale) were added throughout—and with charming lavatories and bathrooms, all lavatories and bathrooms being lined with glazed bricks. (The lavatories of the wing built in 1867 will be started on next month.) Ward kitchens and Sisters' sitting rooms are attached to all the wards. A spiral staircase that wound elegantly up the centre of the building and terminated in an operating theatre like an attic under the roof, and up which patients were carried at imminent risk to their necks, was also swept away, and a new staircase built with proper landings, wide, with low steps. While they pulled that staircase down, the Matron's sitting room on the first floor, was "shored" up in a precarious fashion, and when the whole of the wall came down (I

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