

of nursing, whether medical, surgical, or obstetric, they elect to pursue, and must then promise to remain in the institution for five years after receiving their diploma, and to go out to nurse wherever they may be sent. The minimum salary of the nurses is to be £60 a year. The President of the society founded to promote the scheme, and by whose liberality it has been made possible, is a Jewish lady, and many of the subscribers are of the same nationality. It would seem, therefore, as if Jewesses should be eligible to receive the benefits conferred by the new school. The weak point in the scheme is, in our opinion, the short period passed in hospital, as it is impossible that a thorough education in practical nursing can be given in the limited time of two years. We should like to see the first year spent by the pupils of this school regarded as preliminary study, after which they might well be required to spend three years in hospital, learning the practical part of their work from experienced teachers before undertaking the responsibilities of private nursing. However, it is a matter for congratulation, and a great step in the right direction, that a movement has been inaugurated across the Channel to secure nursing education on professional lines. No doubt the promoters will learn by experience, as it develops, that a longer period of probation is essential to the success of their scheme.

SHIFTY BUSINESS.

AN article which appeared in the *Contemporary Review* of this month, by the Hon. Stephen Coleridge, draws attention to an evil to which we have on more than one occasion taken exception, namely the utilization of charitable funds, subscribed for the relief of the sick poor, for the maintenance of schools of medicine in connection with hospitals. The subject is one upon which we feel strongly, and it is therefore with pleasure that we notice that it is being dealt with in an able manner in a non-professional magazine. We assert without fear of contradiction, that if a medical school is maintained in connection with a hospital it should be self supporting. If, on the contrary, the prestige of the hospital is not sufficient to attract to its ranks enough students to maintain a school of medicine on a remunerative basis, then the school should, as a matter of common honesty, be dissolved. There is no doubt that in the future, when the public grasp the situation, the adoption of this course will be

demanding by subscribers to our hospitals. Then we shall have, what we ought to have had long since, a Central School of Medicine for London, where students will be able to obtain their theoretical instruction. The excuse for maintaining expensive buildings as medical colleges, and the payment of handsome salaries to lecturers in connection with each small school, will then have no possible basis, and such a perversion of funds as that to which Mr. Coleridge draws attention in the case of Middlesex Hospital will no longer be possible.

Mr. Coleridge quotes an advertisement which appeared last December in the London press emanating from that institution, and containing the following words:—

"An earnest appeal is made for contributions to be made towards the new research Laboratory, in order to prevent the funds subscribed for the maintenance of the hospital being absorbed to defray the expenses of this undertaking."

He further raises a question of some importance to the public, namely, that the Middlesex Hospital does not publish any accounts to show how the public funds thus employed are expended. If public funds are used for a purpose which is, to say the least, open to question, it is all the more incumbent upon the committee of the hospital to publish an audited account of the expenditure incurred.

IRISH WORKHOUSE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Irish Workhouse Association was recently held at the Mansion House, Dublin, when there was a representative attendance. The report was submitted by the secretary, Miss L. Stephens, M.A. The chief points noted were the increase in the number of members of the Association, amongst the new members being several newly-elected women guardians, the generosity of the Countess of Pembroke in training probationers for workhouse nursing, the scheme initiated by some of the Roman Catholic Bishops under which nuns nursing in poor-law hospitals were being trained and assisted by fully qualified nurses with good results. The appointment of a medical inspector of workhouse hospitals was recommended, as well as the conversion of workhouse hospitals into district hospitals. We should like to suggest to the members of this useful society that the appointment of a trained nurse as inspector of nursing in workhouse hospitals should also form part of their programme.

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