

Union Infirmary, to judge from recent exposures in the local press. From the last case reported, of an enquiry into the death of a patient, it appears that it is possible for a man suffering with bronchitis and heart disease to arise from his bed at night, walk downstairs, and pass out of the institution without the knowledge of nurses or porters, spend twenty-four hours in the open, and be discovered on the London and North-Western Railway line near the hospital, and sent back to the Institution, to die the same day.

FROM the evidence given at the inquest, it is quite clear that, as the nurses cannot be in two or three places at once, they are not to blame in this instance. It should be a rule that no ward containing sick people should ever be left night or day without at least one nurse on duty, and this cannot be in those institutions where more than one ward is placed under the charge of one nurse, as appears to be the arrangement at the Hope Hospital, Salford.

WE well remember a shock received in the old days by meeting a male patient suffering with erysipelas in the head, in a very short cotton shirt, taking the air at 2 a.m. in a hospital garden. The sticks of legs, the fluttering white garment, the enormous head all bound up in cotton wool and bandages, and the swollen blue tinged face, were distinctly alarming; but by taking the poor fellow's hand and suggesting aiding and abetting his escape by directing his steps to the big gates, he was easily guided back to his bed, in a rabbit warren of small wards, all in the care of one nurse. But these were in prehistoric days, and such dangers to delirious patients should not now be possible.

THE *Express* tells a wondrous tale of a nurse coming into a fortune of £600,000. Of course the news comes by telegram from New York, the city of never ceasing wonders.

IT says:—"Six years ago Miss Ima Ihde nursed a wealthy clothing merchant in the Berlin Hospital. When recovered sufficiently to leave the institution, he asked his nurse to marry him. She consented, but her parents would not allow the marriage to take place, as the lover was consumptive. The nurse came to New York in 1898. To-day she was informed that her former patient had died and left her £600,000. She will sail for home to-morrow to claim the estate."

THE lawyer, by the bye, who brought her the good news, has already "claimed" the young lady!

WHAT do we know about Corea? How many of us could place our finger on it in the map of the world? Nevertheless, for the last ten years, medical work has been going on in this far country, and since September, 1892, it has had its hospital, its dispensary, and its staff of trained nurses.

IT was in this year that a branch of the St. Peter's, Kilburn, Sisterhood was established in Seoul, and shortly afterwards four Sisters were placed in charge of the nursing in the women's hospital.

IN 1895, Mrs. Isabella Bird Bishop, the well known traveller, visited Corea, and became very interested in Dr. Cooke's work among women and children. Desiring better surroundings for them, she kindly offered to build a hospital, and eventually the "Dora Bird Block," comprising two handsome wards, was added to the existing buildings.

THE year 1896 saw the resignation of Dr. Louisa Cooke, and the arrival of Dr. Katharine M. Allan, an American lady, in whose hands the good work initiated by Dr. Cooke steadily progressed.

IN relation to the hospital, Dr. Cooke writes:—

"A difficulty from the first was the absence of an operating room, and as the work increased so rapidly we felt this need more and more. . . . The dispensary was our operation theatre; a sort of Box and Cox arrangement, fitted up as an operation room in the afternoon, cleared and used as a dispensary in the forenoon; but just as with Box and Cox, when the room was needed at the same time for both purposes, there was a general clash, resulting always in favour of operations which could not be postponed. This we could do in the summer, when the dispensary patients could wait out of doors, but in the winter it was impossible. Besides, dispensary patients should never be admitted to a room used for operations without first undergoing our rules with regard to cleanliness. Many thanks are due to the Sisters and Nurses who were ever ready and willing to put this room in order whenever called upon, although so short-handed at times. I often wondered how they managed it, and longed for their sake to relieve them of all this extra work and have a suitable room which should always be kept in order for this purpose."

WE are glad to learn that, owing to the kindness of friends, a handsome and suitable operation room has been added to the hospital. It will be realized that this addition was urgently needed when we state that the number of patients in attendance at the hospital last year was nearly 18,000.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)