

governing body of their Association; their generosity proved their undoing; the members of the medical profession, with a few notable exceptions, were willing to dispense patronage, but proved themselves very unwilling to support professional progress and self-government for nurses. Suffice it to say that, by methods universally condemned by every honourable person in this country, pressure was brought to bear upon dependent nurse members to induce them to vote for the revision of the by-laws, thereby depriving their colleagues of the powers of self-government granted them five years previously, the Privy Council of Great Britain going so far as to deny to the protesting nurses their right to be heard by Counsel."

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"FOR the time being the interests of British nurses, who were the pioneers of nursing reform, have suffered for the general good; for it is satisfactory to know that we stand as a warning to the nurses of the New World, who, in effecting professional organization, have studiously avoided the initial mistake of placing the personal liberty of the trained nurse under the control of medical men."

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"TO advance the higher evolution of the trained nurse, the domination of the doctor and the man must cease when he leaves the sick-room, if nursing is to rank as a recognized profession for educated and reasoning human beings. For the sake of the sick, it is the duty of the people and the State to hold the balance of power between the associated professions of medicine and nursing, so that the economic independence the one of the other, which is so essential to the interests of the body politic, may be maintained as an essential principle."

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"THE evolution of the trained nurse in the future depends upon the evolution of the woman."

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WE learn, with relief, that a Mansion House Fund is to be opened for the relief of the sufferers by the terrible famine in India. Never has there been a time when help was more needed.

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NURSING articles, especially if they refer to the Red Cross, are of much interest to the public just now, and it is quite amusing being "pumped" by a variety of journalists, all anxious to write up the subject for their various papers. One is tempted, now and then, to appeal to one's imagination in giving "tips," but we have resisted the temptation so far. Some day something very startling may appear over the signature of one of these journalistic nursing experts, "who would rather not go round a ward—one might catch something, you know"!!

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD-ROOM MIRROR.



RETURNS presented at Saturday's meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board showed that 4,208 fever patients were under treatment in the hospitals of the Board on the 25th ult.—a decrease of 309 compared with the previous return. There were twenty-three small-pox patients under treatment—an increase of six.

The Diamond Jubilee addition to the Royal South Hants Infirmary at Southampton is to be formally opened by Princess Henry of Battenberg on the afternoon of Wednesday, February 7th, her Royal Highness officiating for the Duke of Connaught, who is unable to attend, as was originally arranged several months ago. The Princess will be received by Members of the Committee, and Miss Mollett, Lady Superintendent.

The question of the municipalization of hospitals is on the tapis, and in this connection it is interesting to note that a debate on "Should our Hospitals be Endowed and Managed by the State?" took place last week in connection with the Literary Society of Roath Park Presbyterian Church, Cardiff. Mr. J. Strachan presided. Councillor W. H. Allen opened in the affirmative, his seconder being Mr. Daniel Lewis. The negative side of the question was championed by Dr. Smith, and in the absence of Dr. Sparrow Councillor Courtis seconded. Amongst those who took part in the discussion were the Chairman, Councillor Morgan Thomas, Dr. Horder, and Messrs. McPherson, Walker, Watson, and Burgess. A vote by ballot was taken, resulting as follows:—For the affirmative, 34; negative, 20.

Two natives of the Congo suffering from that mysterious disease, sleeping sickness, are for the first time being treated in a London hospital. Various causes are assigned for the disease. Some say it is the result of eating a plant (mandioc or cassava), others that it is communicated by mosquitoes. The native doctors at the Congo keep sufferers from it awake by the drastic process of rubbing cayenne pepper into their eyes. Miss Mary Kingsley gives a most interesting account of this disease in her works on West Africa.

The establishment of a new British Hospital is being much discussed by the English Colony at Constantinople, the chief difficulty experienced being that of obtaining a suitable site. It is proposed to erect a new hospital on the site of the present one as well as on that of the British Consulate, and to remove the Consulate to another building.

The Sydney Board of Health states that it has visible evidence of the way in which bubonic plague is spread, a patient having given the plague to several other persons through the instrumentality of a flea. These persons are being kept under observation, and have been placed in quarantine. It is supposed that the

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