

OR as in the case of some notorious exploiters of nurses and their affairs, the medical man "stands the racket," takes the house, and is responsible for rent, etc. He then "puts in" a half-trained nurse, who, as it were, covers his connection with the house, which is kept full of his patients for all sorts of lengthy treatments at exorbitant prices. This Sister in Charge is paid a high percentage on the annual "takings," and one pities the public who are sufficiently unfortunate to fall into the clutches of these harpies.

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BUT surely the General Medical Council is responsible for these most unprofessional proceedings upon the part of members of the profession it controls. It surely cannot be "professional" for medical men to "run" nursing homes in conjunction with half-trained nurses, or strictly honourable upon their part to send their patients into nursing homes controlled by women who have never spent a day in a hospital. If the *Lancet* is anxious for a new sphere for a "commission," let us recommend the West End Nursing Home—it will find a liberal field for investigation.

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THE Committee of the Bristol Royal Infirmary have, for some time, been anxious to provide a home for their nurses apart from the Infirmary proper. So long ago as 1886, a house was purchased and fitted up to accommodate some of the nurses, and a few years later a number of bed-rooms were added. Now another large extension has been made, and the removal of all the nurses from the Infirmary, when off duty, accomplished.

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THE new wing has been designed on the best and newest principles, and there is now accommodation for 93 nurses, most of whom have separate rooms. There are also recreation and reading rooms, Superintendent's sitting-room, cloak-room, box-room, and numerous bath-rooms. The building is heated by means of hot-water pipes. There is a garden attached to the home, with space for a tennis-court and other out-door amusements. The entire cost of the extension, and furnishing, repairs, and alterations has been about £8,600.

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AN interesting scene took place in the Board Room of Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, recently, when the Chairman, Sir Robert Fitzgerald made presentations to Mrs. and Miss Newmann, for over thirty years Sisters in the Institution. Many Governors and subscribers, as well as the Matron (Miss Cureton), were present.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The Duke and Duchess of Fife, paid a private visit to the Royal Hospital for Incurables, Putney Heath, on Saturday, and spent considerable time in the various wards of the Hospital, and conversed with many of the patients.

The Cardiff Infirmary has not been very happily managed of late, and friction in one department or another seems constantly to occur. The Finance Committee held a special meeting recently for the consideration of alleged irregularities in the keeping of accounts, and at the close of the proceedings the Press was supplied with the following particulars by the Chairman, the other Members of the Committee acquiescing:—

"The result of the inquiry of the Committee was to satisfy its members that there have been great irregularities in the keeping of the secretary's accounts, sufficient in their opinion to justify them in calling for his immediate resignation; at the same time they are disposed to accept the explanations that have been offered in his behalf, exonerating him from any intention of misconduct."

Mr. Coleman, Superintendent and Secretary, then tendered his resignation.

The finding of the Committee and the acceptance of the resignation were unanimous.

A cheque for £1,250 from Mrs. Poncia, of Edgbaston, has been received by the Committee of the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, for the endowment of a bed in memory of her husband, the late John Poncia.

At a special meeting of the Board of Management of the Manchester Royal Infirmary. Mr. G. A. Wright, F.R.C.S., honorary senior assistant surgeon, was unanimously appointed honorary surgeon, in succession to Mr. Thomas Jones, who lost his life in South Africa.

A severe lesson in the power of trade unionism has just been taught the Lincoln Guardians. The local medical officer asked for an increase of salary from £45 to £80. This was refused and he resigned. The guardians, saying they objected to be dictated to, sought a new officer at the lower salary, but in vain, as the local doctors boycotted the Board. The salary was raised to £60 with the same result, and then to £70, but still nobody offered. At length an Edinburgh doctor was imported, but immediately after being elected he resigned and went home again. The Guardians have now acknowledged themselves beaten, and decided to appoint a local doctor at £80—if any will apply.

The Birkbeck Building Society, of Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, has just issued its forty-ninth Annual Report. The total Receipts of the Society during the past year have exceeded eighteen millions sterling, and there is a cash balance at the Bankers in hand of £707,691. The Society has a Banking Department which affords banking facilities to those classes for whom, as a rule, few or no conveniences of this sort are provided.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)