

devoted services of the carefully selected staff of nurses in upholding the character of the institution was gratefully acknowledged. The number of cases attended during the year had been 967, but 391 had had to be declined in consequence of no nurse being at liberty when application was made. There were now 96 nurses engaged in private nursing, and 13 probationers in training at hospitals. Fifteen nurses had left the institution during the year—two to be married, and thirteen for work elsewhere.

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It was also stated that "a large portion of the balance of profits for the year had been appropriated between the Leeds Trained Nurses' Institution Trust Fund of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses and the Leeds District Nursing Association."

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Surely the time has gone past for the nurses earnings to be "appropriated" for any other purpose than their own use. We hope in the future to see this flourishing institution remodelled entirely on co-operative principles, whereby the nurses will combine to pay a percentage for business management, and take their own earnings—as so many London nurses now do. Why should these hard working women pay for the nursing of the sick poor in the districts of Leeds? It is a preposterous condition of affairs, and one which should speedily be discontinued. How would the medical men of Leeds, who make much larger incomes than the nurses, like to be sweated for this purpose—a form of charity which should be provided for by the wealthy classes, or by the rates. Sometimes we altogether lose patience with women for their lack of a self respecting sense of justice.

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Nurse Margaret Rebecca O'Neill, aged 27, Staff Nurse at General Hospital, Birmingham, died there on Sunday morning, 3rd February, from peritonitis, following enteric fever. Nurse O'Neill was trained at Isleworth Infirmary (three years), and was for a short time Nurse at District Hospital, Walsall, joining the General Hospital Staff on 19th November, 1900.

The funeral service was held in the General Hospital chapel, on Tuesday morning, at which were present Mrs. and Mr. John O'Neill (mother and brother from Belfast), Sir John Holder (Bart.), Chairman of the House Committee, Mr. John Phillips (Chairman of Nursing Committee), Dr. T. S. Wilson (Hon. Physician), the House Governor, seven of the resident staff, Miss Jones the Matron, and forty-nine of the nursing staff, including Assistant Matron and Night Superintendent, and twenty-two servants and wardmaids.

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



It is announced in the *Gazette* that the King has been pleased to issue a commission to inquire into the extent and cause of the recent exceptional sickness and death attributable to poisoning by arsenic, etc. The commissioners appointed are Lord Kelvin, Sir W. Hart-Dyke, Mr. T. E. Thorpe, Mr. Cosmo Bonsor, Dr. W. S. Church, and Dr. B. A. Whitelegge, and the secretary is Dr. G. S. Buchanan.

At the annual general meeting of the shareholders in Bovril, Limited, the chairman, Viscount Duncannon, pointed out that big profits had not been made out of material supplied to the Government, as the prices charged were lower than those quoted to any other client. Sales, however, were steadily increasing, and the appreciation of the company's product, which was used by the bucketful by the military authorities in South Africa, had largely improved their trade. Over 500 hospitals and infirmaries, he added, now bought from them regularly. The profit was £180,600, or £55,600 more than last year, out of which £40,000 had been added to the reserve, and £14,182 carried forward. This is good "biz."

Mr. P. H. Vaughan, treasurer of the Queen Victoria Convalescent Home at Bristol, which was opened by Queen Victoria in 1899, has offered the governors £10,000 for the maintenance of free beds in the institution, on condition that £20,000 more be raised by March 31, to enable the home to be worked at its full capacity.

The murder is out at last, and the fact that plague has shown itself in South Africa is acknowledged. We always wonder why these facts should be hushed up—sooner or later the truth is sure to become known—and one resents being made a fool of, presumably by the all powerful Censor. The Government has now made an official announcement regarding the nature of the disease, and is establishing hospitals at several inland centres and preparing for every contingency.

The persons suspected of plague have been removed to hospital. The cases occurred at Cape Town, Woodstock, and Rondebosch, and in every instance the patient had worked in the military section of the docks, where the disease was first noticed. Plague symptoms were discovered in mice at the docks. Rats have suddenly made their appearance at Greenpoint military camp, having presumably trekked from the docks, where the disease first broke out. The Harbours Board is offering a reward of 3d. per head for rats.

Outbreaks of smallpox or plague, or both, at Glasgow, Dundee, Hull, Cardiff and Queenstown are causing the local authorities concerned great anxiety, and rats are being hunted down with energy, there being many millions in the harbours of our sea-port towns.

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