

were waited upon by a matron and twelve women under her. Their salaries were not excessive, the matron receiving only £2 6s. 8d., and each of the women forty shillings yearly, although the clerk, in his usual account of the expenditure of the hospital, speaks feelingly of "the excessive price of all things!"

A just tribute of praise was paid by the lecturer to the great work of Frederica Flieidner; the beloved Frau Pastorin of Kaiserswerth—who was the first woman to suggest and organize a system of training where pupils centred round a Mother, should be held morally responsible for the welfare of their patients, and their own course of action, and yet lose none of the personal purity of their womanhood—a condition until the last century considered impossible.

Then we were told that during the year 1851 Miss Florence Nightingale, already a great practical philanthropist, spent some months at Kaiserswerth, studying the Sisterhood's system of work. "It is Florence Nightingale who has given to the nursing world practical, tangible laws, who, in her broadminded, unanswerable works on nursing and hygiene, laid down the laws and principles of nursing too clearly to be refuted, and who founded a school for the training of nurses which led the way from the maze of good intentions to the clear path of practical usefulness, placing nursing on a *scientific basis*. I emphasize this fact because we are apt to associate the name and fame of Florence Nightingale with army nursing reform, as the result of her splendid efforts during the Crimean War, but it is because she realised and enforced the truth that nursing is not only a technical handicraft but a science that we owe her an unestimable debt."

Mrs. Fenwick then pointed out the attempts made by trained nurses during the past fourteen years to organize to obtain increased educational advantages and legal status—the betrayal of the interests of trained nurses by a reactionary medical faction who seized and still controlled the Royal British Nurses Association—and in conclusion she gave an outline of the necessary co-operation to effect reforms in the future for the better education and the ultimate Registration of trained nurses by Act of Parliament, concluding with the following suggestion:

"Nurses, as I have shown, have attempted to reform their own calling. They are for the moment checked and hindered in their advance, and it is therefore for the public now to move in the matter. In my judgment this is a matter especially for women to undertake, and for women to carry through, as a duty to their sex and to their homes. If the women's societies desire to do something practical for the national good, they should strengthen the hands of the women who are striving to effect nursing reforms. They can do so, by bringing influence to bear upon Members of Parliament to grant a public injury into the present condition of nursing affairs, Women's Societies could do a great and national work by urging upon Members of Parliament the need for a Nursing Act which would, by improving the education and discipline of trained nurses, safe-guard the sick, advance the efficiency and usefulness of nurses to an immeasurable degree, and effectually bring about the constitution of a Profession of Nursing."

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The Queen has consented to retain the patronage of the Alexandra Hospital for Children with Hip Disease, Queen Square, Bloomsbury.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Stepney to the Bishopric of London. The new Bishop of London is by no means the first bachelor occupant of the see. For

150 years after the Reformation Settlement of Elizabeth it was the exception for the Bishop of London to be a married man, while at Lambeth the tradition of celibacy was so strong that from Archbishop Matthew Parker to Archbishop Tillotson, a period of 115 years, no lady shared the glories of the archiepiscopal throne. Bishop Sandys (1570-1577), afterwards Archbishop of York, was the first married Bishop of London, and there have been many married Bishops since.

Sir Richard Douglas-Powell, Bart., M.D., and Sir Thomas Barlow, Bart., M.D., have been appointed Knights Commanders of the Royal Victorian Order,

At the recent annual meeting of the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, Victoria Park (Mr. J. Benson, L.C.C., presided), it was reported that the committee had been able to place 20 beds at the disposal of the War office for suitable cases from the seat of war in South Africa, an offer which was gratefully accepted. The balconies for the open-air treatment had been practically completed, and the results had proved most promising. The committee were preparing plans in the hope that they might be able soon to build and equip a suitable home in the grounds of the hospital for the nursing staff, and for that purpose a special appeal was being made to the public for funds. Having thanked the ladies' association for its assistance the report stated that the total receipts for the year were £15,224.

A return ordered to be prepared by the House of Commons has just been issued showing the number of cases of deaths in London last year upon which a coroner's jury has returned a verdict of "Death from starvation" or "Death accelerated by privation." The number of cases totals sixty-eight, and the largest proportion occurred in the North-Eastern and Eastern districts.

The War Office has been much to the front this week. Here is an amusing story relating to it from the *Journal of Education*. A successful operation was performed on a sergeant in South Africa who had been wounded in the head. The surgeon who performed the operation subsequently recognised his patient walking in Pall Mall and congratulated him on his recovery. "I've got that portion of your brain that I removed preserved in spirits, and if you like I'll give it to you as a curiosity." "Thank 'ee kindly, sir, but I've no use for it now; you see, I'm employed at the War Office."

The Salvation Army's self-denial week begins to-day. Last year £50,000 was raised.

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