

Annotations.

THE MEDICAL, SURGICAL AND HYGIENIC EXHIBITION.

This exhibition, organized by the Medical, Surgical, and Hygienic Exhibitors Association, is now well-known and very popular amongst nurses, being admittedly one of the best arranged and conducted of the yearly fixtures. Our readers will be pleased to learn that the exhibition is to take place this year on May 28th, 29th, 30th, and 31st, at the Queen's Hall, Langham Place, W., and that nurses in uniform will, as usual, be admitted free.

STALL 98.

We are glad to be able to announce that the NURSING RECORD has secured stall 98, and that in addition to this journal, the Nursing Directory, published under the authority of the Matrons' Council, as well as other nursing literature issued at the NURSING RECORD office, will be on sale.

It says much for the management of this Association that though it was only instituted in 1895, yet, year after year, the Hall is increasingly crowded, and while excellent music is discoursed, medical men and nurses, the latter easily recognizable by their uniforms of every colour and variety, are methodically making the round of the exhibition, inspecting the latest medical and surgical appliances and inventions, and testing new foods and invalid dietary. In conclusion we may say that whatever show we miss at this busy time of year we have gained so much profit and pleasure from the Medical, Surgical, and Hygienic Exhibition that we always make a point of attending it.

SUICIDE AT INFIRMARIES.

So many suicides have recently occurred in Infirmary wards that some comment appears opportune. It is inevitable that many patients of a despondent disposition should drift into these institutions and, therefore, a strict guard should be kept, on the wards, a matter surely of medical and nursing organization. The nursing staff must be sufficiently large to ensure the constant presence of at least one nurse in a ward, and further, poisonous lotions and drugs, barber's razors, and other instruments by which self destruction can be accomplished, should be carefully kept out of reach. The responsibility of nurses is at all times enormous, but it should

not be increased by the disregard of ordinary precautions for the protection of the sick.

LIGHT AND DARKNESS.

Men love darkness rather than light, not only because their deeds are evil, but also because of their own ignorance. Thus we have the spectacle in the present day of a certain section of the medical profession—animated, no doubt, by a desire to benefit humanity—performing experiments upon dumb animals entailing suffering, mutilation and death, and seeking with the aid of the scalpel to wrest from nature secrets which she has so far hidden.

There is little doubt that generations to come will regard this method of research as clumsy and unscientific, and that pathological conditions, now obscure, will be an open book to future scientists, when the Röntgen rays, now in a rudimentary stage, have been perfected. It is to the penetrating search-light and not to experiments made in the secret fastnesses of locked laboratories that we must look for scientific revelations in the future.

Meanwhile, there is a large section of the public, more especially of the benevolent public, which revolts from the practice of vivisection, and would not knowingly place itself for treatment in the hands of vivisectioners. The convictions of such persons as to the evil of vivisection are just as strong as those of scientists in its favour, and should receive equal consideration. Many who desire to support hospitals in their care of the sick poor, find themselves faced by the difficulty that if they subscribe to the Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund, or to the Hospital Sunday Fund, their subscriptions are in part utilized to support a practice which is abhorrent to them.

In our opinion this difficulty might be surmounted if the Anti-vivisection Society, which is certainly now strong enough to take the initiative, were to open a central fund for the definite purpose of assisting those hospitals to which no vivisectioners are attached. It is presumable that such a fund would be largely supported by ministers of all denominations and their congregations, and would probably become very powerful. Further, this society might help its supporters by publishing a list of those medical men who hold a license to practice vivisection, with or without anæsthetics, so that they need not unknowingly consult these practitioners. Such action on its part would be welcomed by many.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)