

The new Nurses' Home nearing completion, and soon to be opened will accommodate 300 residents, whose comfort has been well considered. Each worker has a separate bedroom, there are adequate bath facilities, dining-halls, and reception-rooms. The site of the house is attractive also, many of the rooms looking out over fine old trees and grassy lawns.

The Annual Congress of the Sanitary Institute will this year be held at Manchester from the 9th to 13th of September, the Earl Egerton of Tatton as President. The sections include Sanitary Science and Preventive Medicine, Engineering and Architecture, Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Eight Technical Conferences will also be held in connection with the Congress.

A donation of 100 Guineas has been made by the Vinolia Company to the Fund for the new Building and Endowment of the Parkes Museum at the Sanitary Institute.

The Governors of the North Staffordshire Infirmary, Stoke-on-Trent, hope to commemorate the Coronation year by the erection of a new block of buildings to be called "King Edward VII. Home for Nurses," in connection with the institution, at a cost of about £10,000. Promises amounting to £2,000 were made at a luncheon given by the chairman of the Governors (Mr. A. F. Coghill) to some of the leading residents of the district last week. The building is to accommodate 50 nurses, and is to be joined to the Infirmary by a covered way.

The latest gift to the Victoria Hospital, Burnley, is a new operating theatre, which will form a valuable addition to the resources of the institution. Some time ago an anonymous donor intimated his willingness to pay for its erection and equipment. The offer was thankfully accepted by the Board of Management, and the work has just been completed. It now appears that the donor is Mr. John Witham, of Rookwood, cotton spinner and manufacturer, who has erected the theatre in memory of his sister, the late Miss Witham, who died last year. The cost will exceed £1,000.

At Southgate a fine isolation hospital has been erected at a cost of £14,000 by the Urban District Council of Southgate. The opening ceremony was attended by the *élite* of the neighbourhood. Major W. J. Brown, J.P. (chairman of the District Council) opened the spacious building, and remarked that the people of Southgate had at last obtained what had been long wanted.

Hovis-Bread is being severely tested by Mr. C. W. Hart, in his unique performance at the Aquarium, where he has undertaken to run 2,000 miles in thirty days. No other than Hovis Bread will be eaten by Mr. Hart; and he is wise, as the food value of Hovis is double that of bread made from ordinary wheaten flour.

We are glad to note that upwards of £50,000 has been willed to hospitals during the past fortnight. The Edinburgh Royal Infirmary must now be one of the richest hospitals in the world.

Faulty Finance.

THE WELSBACH COMPANY AND THE NATIONAL PENSION FUND FOR NURSES.

The startling and unprecedented proceedings at the great meeting of the Welsbach Company, held at the Cannon Street Hotel, on Wednesday, January 15th, have naturally aroused considerable anxiety amongst a large number of nurses who have placed their hard earned savings in the National Pension Fund for Nurses, of which, as they all know, Sir Henry Burdett is the Deputy Chairman, and controlling spirit.

As our readers are well aware, we have never accepted that gentleman's exalted estimate of himself, and duty has compelled us to point out the absurdity of his various pretensions. We have strenuously opposed his claim to authority in nursing matters, and we have similarly explained his claims to be regarded as "the modern Howard," by showing that those claims to be considered a great philanthropist were founded on his appropriation of credit for the large sums of money which he had persuaded more generous but more modest men to give to philanthropic movements.

Burdett, the professional philanthropist, we have never hesitated to criticise, but Burdett, the financier, we have left severely alone, merely expressing the opinion that when in the service of the Stock Exchange, Sir Henry Burdett would have done wisely to confine his attention to his official duties, and leave the Nursing Profession to manage its own affairs. And we have always thought that, had he been pleased to listen to our excellent advice, it is not improbable that, upon his retirement from his official connection with the Stock Exchange, the generous Committee of that Institution would not have taken the extreme course of denying him the pension for which he applied.

From the Stock Exchange Sir Henry Burdett stepped into the Chairmanship of the Welsbach Company, then in process of formation, a company which experts declared at the time was extravagantly over-capitalised. This company, under the direction of Sir Henry Burdett, has gone steadily down hill, and at an increasing rate, and finally its position became so grave that last June the shareholders appointed a strong committee of their number to investigate its condition, including such men as the Hon. Philip Stanhope, Mr. William Whiteley, Mr. Williamson (Chairman of Jay's) and Mr. Barratt, (Pears' Soap), who have a world-wide reputation as successful managers of great business concerns. After six months' investigation this Advisory Committee issued a remarkable report, in which they con-

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