

will refuse to purchase an article which is advertised in this manner, which it characterises as "an insult to the nursing profession." Is it any wonder that nurses are discarding outdoor uniforms when they are openly put to such uses?

At a recent meeting of the Rathdown Guardians a report was received from the Committee appointed to inquire into the circumstances connected with the case of the infant who was thrown from a window of the maternity ward of the Union on July 28th, 1902, and found alive in the men's ward, 25 feet below the window from which the infant was thrown. The report was signed by Mr. Thomas Clark, J.P., Chairman of the Committee, and Mr. A. K. O'Farrell, M.C.C. The Committee, after hearing the evidence, arrived at the conclusion that Alice Hughes, who was supposed to have thrown the child out of the window, having been an inmate of the lunatic ward previous to her removal to the maternity ward, should not have been left at any time without continuous supervision. But that, although Alice Hughes is said to have admitted that it was she who threw the child from the window, the Committee did not feel in a position from the evidence placed before them to state positively by whom the act was committed. The Committee further recommended the appointment of a suitable officer who, in the absence of the maternity nurse from the maternity ward and the supervision of the children, should be in charge. The present person left in charge in the absence of the nurse (which was sometimes of three weeks' duration) had only been in the house a week when appointed, and was the mother of four illegitimate children. The recommendation was lost on a division.

Although the difference in distance between Paris and London, and Paris and New York, is considerable, yet American nurses have obtained a firmer foothold in the French capital than British ones. A hospital managed by American doctors and nurses is now well under way, and an effort is also being made to educate well-bred young Frenchwomen on the modern plan.

A recent issue of the *Bendigoian* contains some charming pictures of the Bendigo Hospital, of which Miss M. D. Farquharson is matron. The hospital proper is a fine and handsome structure, and the nurses' home, with wide steps leading down to the garden and great shady balconies, provides ideal quarters for tired nurses. A group of sisters and nurses, in the centre of which is the matron, is also interesting, and the professional neatness of the nursing staff is very noteworthy. It is pleasant to think of Miss Farquharson as once more at the head of a training-school. The nursing world can ill afford to spare her services in this connection.

The Hospital World.

THE MELBOURNE HOSPITAL.

The Committee of Management of the Melbourne Hospital are at present considering the desirability of replacing the present structure, which is admittedly out of date, by a building worthy of the principal hospital of Melbourne and its clinical school. It is expected that about £120,000 will be required for the purpose, and the intention of the committee if the project meets with the approval of the public, is to replace the old buildings gradually, on what is known as the block system. This scheme was suggested at a conference between the building committee, the surgical and medical staff, and Dr. Cresswell, who represented the Board of Public Health. Recently the committee proposed to build a new fever ward on the site of the tents where fever cases are now housed. As the present arrangements are so unsatisfactory the committee decided to replace the tents by a permanent structure; the Board of Public Health, however, refused the necessary permission, believing that the erection of a permanent structure would deter the committee from making an effort in the future to relieve the present overcrowded state of that portion of the buildings. The fever tents are at present hemmed in by the nurses' quarters, a pavilion, and another building used for refractory cases and serious casualties. The Board considered that the present fever tents were a danger to the nurses in attendance, who lost their health when sent there. The result of the conference was the suggestion that competitive plans be invited from all over the world, and that a prize of £200 be offered for the best design of a modern hospital providing accommodation for 500 patients.

Dr. Cresswell thought that if the committee stated what was required the money would be quickly subscribed, but that unless something were done quickly the institution would drift into a secondary position and be outstripped by newer and better-equipped hospitals. We need not, however, fear that this will be the case while the hospital has so able a President as Mr. F. R. Godfrey, who will no doubt carry through the reconstruction scheme, so that the Melbourne Hospital in the near future will be architecturally second to none.

THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL, MELBOURNE.

The Executive Committee of the Queen's Memorial Fund in Melbourne have devoted the Fund to the building of an Infectious Diseases Hospital at a cost of £18,250. It is proposed that the expenses of management shall be borne by the Municipal Councils, and that these Councils shall agree as to the proportion of liability each should take in the future, regarding the support of the hospital.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)