

We strongly approve of nurses receiving genuine pensions. Why not? Cabinet Ministers have no false pride in accepting high incomes from the nation for life when they retire from active work in the Government, and, moreover, they are usually very wealthy men.

But the outlook of trained nurses has no right to be so gloomy as the Coronation Committee surmise, and it would not be if they were properly paid for their work. The salaries of nurses in Ireland should be raised to a living wage—at present they are much underpaid.

A painful shock was caused in Dublin on Monday by an announcement that the Countess of Dudley had been suddenly stricken down with illness of so severe a character that an operation had had to be performed for appendicitis. Until quite recently Lady Dudley has been engaged in discharging the many onerous duties connected with her position, and only on Friday in last week visited the Royal Hospital for Incurables, Donnybrook, and opened a sale of the patients' work there. Her Excellency was received by the Chairman, Mr. William Fry, the Lady Superintendent, Miss Bradshaw, and other officials of the hospital. In a happy little speech she declared the sale open, and described how, on visiting the hospital a short time previously, she had seen patients, in spite of pain and weariness, eagerly working at many of the things which would be offered for sale. A pleasant incident in the proceedings was the presentation made by Lady Dudley of a beautiful Highland doll to a small patient who on her former visit had presented a bouquet of flowers.

The story was recently told us of a nurse who, proceeding to the tropics, on consulting the Matron of the hospital, who was in England at the time, as to her outfit, was advised to take out white stockings. She replied she should prefer to take tan ones if these served the purpose. (Black stockings are inadmissible, as the dye in them is apt to poison the bites and subsequent ulcers caused by mosquitoes.) The reply she received was that she must at any rate take one pair of white stockings. Curious to know why, she asked the reason, and received the terse answer, "To be buried in." We relate the story as showing the spirit in which nurses take up work in unhealthy climates, knowing full well the risks, but willing to undertake them, in order to afford skilled assistance to the sick. It is satisfactory that although the white stockings were once put out for the purpose for which they were taken, they were ultimately brought home unused, and are preserved by the owner in memory of many things.

Old Physicians and Surgeons.

By Mrs. C. CARMICHAEL STOPES.

One of the old Masters of the Company of Barber-Surgeons was Doctor Thomas Vicary, Surgeon to King Henry VIII. An interesting manuscript collection of his prescriptions and recipes shows that he was something of a physician. I do not know where the book now is, but I saw it some ten years ago, and took a few notes from it which may interest some, in spite of the spelling. It is entitled "The Copy of ye Book made by Mr. Vicare to ye Kinges grace of ye same ressayts apperyng here before and here copped by me, George Gene * of London, Barber and Surgeon."

The remarks upon anatomy perhaps give the clearest idea of the state of the science at the time.

"Hereafter foloweth a lytell tretys or tract of the Anathomy of Man's Body drawn by Mr. Thomas Vicare of London, Barber and Surgeon, and sergeant of ye surgeons unto owre soveren Lorde Kinge Henry ye 8th for all his bretheryn of that felyschippe practising surgery. Nott for them that be expertly seen in ye Anathomy, for unto them, Galyon, ye prince of felosofers, and ye Master of all surgeons, hath sett yt forth, in hys admonitions to ye hey glorye of God, and to ye grett Erudicyon and knowledge of all these yt be expertly seen and lerned in ye noble syens of surgery. And because yt all ye noble phylosofers doth so holy condeme all those persons yt practys for surgery and doth nott know of Anathomy. Therefore I have drawne in to certen lessons or small chapters a part of ye Anathomy, but towching a part of eny member, particularly requyring eny man yt shall read thys lytell tretys to correct and amend it where yt shall be nede and hould me excused for my bould Enterprise, and execept my good wyll:

"In nomine Dei patris. Amen."

He then goes on to describe the proper "complexion," talents, and character, intellectual and moral, of one suitable to be a surgeon. His treatise on Anatomy is short and technical; then he gives a number of prescriptions for various diseases real and imaginary. There are various diet drinks, the chief ingredient of which seems to be sarsaparilla, "A most .sovereigne drynke against all maner infirmities, and as well for those that are perfect in health as the diseased, ryght necessary to be taken in the spring of the year, or at the fall of the leafe, or at any tyme when sycknesse shall require it." "Sarze parillij ʒ iiij, Lignum Vitae ʒ iiij, steepe them in 12 pints of water," &c.

"KING HENRY THE VIIIITH HIS WATER MADE TO DRYNK WITH WYNE.

"R. Rounyng water viii. pynte, sugar ʒ ij., Cinan.

* About the middle of the book the date of the copying is given as April 7th, 1591.

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