

recent appeal; the Lord and Lady Mayoress have given £1,000, and the Queen, in addition to the gift of £1,000, has also given two more Finsen lamps, and an expensive adjustment to eight to make them more efficient.

The time is evidently gone by when the nurses of the London Hospital were so terribly overworked that the death-rate was a standing reproach to the nursing department. The staff has been doubled in the past decade, and, according to quite recent changes in the regulations, probationers are granted three hours off duty daily. Morning leave is timed from 8.30 to 12, which includes the dressing half-hour; while those who are off duty in the afternoon attend the 1.45 dinner, and are free till 5 p.m., which includes the half-hour for tea. Again what a change is here! The nurses at the London should now be as fresh as paint, and we have no doubt work away at top speed in the best of spirits when they are in the wards. The whirligig of time indeed brings round its own revenges. We wonder how those obstructive Governors feel who howled down their more progressive and conscientious colleagues when fighting for these reforms in the early nineties when they ponder on these things? Anyway, the pioneers have cause for content.

The inquiry, which took place at Battersea last Saturday, into the death of a patient at the Wandsworth and Clapham Infirmary on April 20th, concerns the profession of nursing, as the jury found that "the deceased died from exhaustion whilst suffering from the effects of alcohol, but that his death was hastened by undue violence, there being insufficient evidence to show who was guilty of it."

It was, nevertheless, accepted, on the evidence taken, that this unfortunate man, who had suffered from delirium tremens, had sustained the fracture of six of his ribs after his admission to the infirmary. Dr. Freyberger, the L.C.C. pathologist, gave under cross-examination his reasons for fixing the date of the injury after the admission of the patient to the infirmary, and said there were two large bruises on each side of the breast corresponding with the fractures internally. He thought that pushing back into bed by two fists might have occasioned the injuries. A chronic alcoholic subject was often insensible to pain, and might not complain of the injury.

The Medical Superintendent, Dr. Neale, agreed as to the probable date of the injury, and said that six male nurses had at one time and another attended the deceased. No complaint had ever been received about any of his male nurses. When we have State Registration of Trained Nurses, one of the things which will certainly come under the heading

of "infamous conduct in a professional respect" is the application of physical force to patients.

The first annual report of the great City of Glasgow Fever Hospital at Ruchill, covering the period from the opening of the hospital in September, 1900, to May 31st, 1902, and submitted to the Committee on Health at the beginning of the present year, has been admirably compiled by Dr. Alex. Johnston, D.P.H., Physician and Superintendent. The opening of the hospital with a new staff of nurses, servants, ambulance drivers, and porters was no light task, and in this connection Dr. Johnston records his thanks to the Matron, Miss Kinnear Adams, for the great assistance she rendered in the expeditious and satisfactory conduct of this work. A system was from the first introduced—then new to Glasgow—whereby a nurse accompanies each ambulance van sent out for patients. This has, says Dr. Johnston, been attended with great success in ministering to comfort and safety on the removal of the patient, as well as in reducing the risks of the spread of infection. The nurse is supplied with a form of questions to be answered by the relatives, and thus, while attending to the removal of the patient, she is enabled to obtain a history of the illness, and information of a professional nature of great value to the medical officers.

The Defence authorities in Australia have received a despatch from the War Office stating that it wishes to recognise the services of the Australian nurses who went to South Africa by presenting each of them with a substantial gratuity as a slight recompense for their services.

The *Times of India* speaks plainly of the lack of available nursing in Bombay. It states:—"Bombay is proud, and justly proud, of the splendid medical institutions which it owes to the benevolence of a past generation; but it has long been a reproach to the city that these noble charities have fallen short of their full value for lack of an essential part of their equipment. The Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy Hospital, and the Bai Motlibai and Eye Hospitals, which adjoin it, were designed by their founders on broad and generous lines, and the buildings themselves are admirably suited to their purpose. Government have furnished a medical staff upon no niggardly basis. The high reputation the hospitals enjoy is most justly merited, and competent observers have declared that the clinical work at the Jamsetjee is not inferior to that of the best London hospitals.

"But whilst in these two departments the standard attained has left little to be desired, in that scarcely less important branch—the skilled

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)