

In connection with the Countess of Dudley's nursing scheme for the outlying parts of Ireland, plans are in progress for establishing nurses at Oughterard, a central part of Connemara.

The Dean of St. Paul's presided last week at a drawing-room meeting held at 3, Grosvenor Place, in support of a scheme drawn up by Miss Alice Gregory relating to the higher training of midwives, and, incidentally, to the depreciation of the training of nurses. Miss Gregory's proposal that a general hospital, with a maternity annexe, should be established at Woolwich was supported by the Bishop of Stepney and Sir Edmund Hay Currie.

Miss Gregory's scheme, to which we have already alluded, is, as she explained to the meeting, that a general hospital, with a maternity annexe, should be started in some neighbourhood in need of such an institution, which, in addition to its primary work of nursing the sick poor, should be recognised as a National Training-School for Midwives. The standard of training for nurses in this general hospital is to be "an eighteen months' course of general and monthly nursing, prior to a six months' course of district midwifery." That so inefficient a course of training in nursing should be proposed by anyone with any experience in nursing is extraordinary. From a nursing point of view it is doomed to failure, and it is a foregone conclusion that as soon as State Registration of Nurses is in force no women "trained" in an institution having this standard will be eligible for registration or recognised as trained nurses.

The *Durveg in Castle*, which left Cape Town for England on June 17th, had on board Nursing Sisters J. N. Mitchell, P. B. Watson, B. Romio, and E. A. Couch.

Mr. Alfred L. Cohen, L.C.C., delivered an address on the Hospital Nurse at the service of the Jewish Religious Union, on Saturday, June 13th, taking as his text: "But Deborah Rebecca's nurse died, and she was buried beneath Beth-el under an oak: and the name of it was called Allon-Bachuth—that is, the oak of weeping."—Genesis xxxv., 8. In pleading for the financial support of the hospitals, he claimed that the overworking of nurses was a question of cash—not a very sound argument, in our opinion—but he proved how necessarily expensive efficient nursing is, and advocated an increase of 500 nurses among the 150 hospitals aided by the Mansion House Fund, so that the daily work of a nurse shall be normally about eight hours, which would entail an additional expenditure of £27,000 a year.

Mr. Cohen had something interesting to say about nurses in the past:—

"Some of us can remember the clumsy, clattering and chattering nurses of half a century ago. The

nurse of to-day has to be tactful, gentle, and discreet, and is no more addicted to gossiping about the private affairs of her patients than are the doctors under whom she has studied.

"Nurses were unfitting fifty years ago, but I hope you will not think me an over-bigoted reactionary if I remind you that they were not always so, and that here in London, in the year 1390, there were female barber surgeons, regular members of the guild and legally admitted, who rivalled successfully their male brethren, and who like them, indeed, dressed hair as well as wounds. The over-specialisation which is complained of now evidently did not exist then.

"But there are examples of skill and discretion of nurses a good deal further back.

"When Odysseus came home to Ithaca and the nurse Eurycleia recognised him, he enjoined silence upon her. 'Then the wise Eurycleia answered, saying, "My child, what word has escaped the door of thy lips? Thou knowest how firm is my spirit, and that I keep me close as the adamant stone."

"Eurycleia, whom Homer termed the wise, and who alone remembered the form and shape of Odysseus' wounds, is no bad model for the modern nurse. But such women do not spring fully equipped like Athene from the head of Zeus. They must be trained and taught, and the hospitals for which I plead are now the training grounds."

Miss Armstrong, Lady Superintendent of the Sheffield Nurses' Home, asks us to state that she would like all her old nurses to know that her address in future will be "Foxholme," Wennington Road, Southport, and that she will always be pleased to hear from them.

The inhabitants of Willington, co. Durham, are showing their appreciation of the services of Nurse Parkin, who has worked in connection with the Willington Nursing Association, and is now leaving the district, by presenting her with a pretty silver tea-service bearing a suitable inscription. No nursing work, when conscientiously and sympathetically performed, is more keenly appreciated than that of district nurses, and this appreciation not unfrequently finds expression in a tangible form.

The editor of *Truth*, while admitting that "there seems to be no doubt that the ribs of the insane often are abnormally fragile," says: "What I still fail to understand is how the inmates of an asylum ever manage to retain any sound ribs at all without being kept packed in cotton-wool." His remarks are occasioned by the inquest which took place at Graylingwell Asylum, Sussex, at which it appeared that a patient's death was primarily due to the fracture of three of his ribs. It was suggested that he sustained these fractures by falling from his chair, but this theory did not wholly satisfy the jury, for, while returning a verdict of "Accidental death," they added that there was insufficient evidence to show how the deceased broke his ribs. The medical officer informed the jury that the patient's "ribs were extremely fragile—like a piece

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)