

letter from Miss Hamond, containing an explicit explanation of the reasons for her action, which was certainly abundantly justified if the facts are as alleged, which the Guardians dispute. Further, Miss Hamond says she supplied to the Guardians experienced nurses. The Master asserts that one of them was an old lady who could hardly get upstairs; also, that she was ill when she came, and he had to get her a bottle of brandy!

Excellent work is being done by the Perth Sick Nursing Society a total of 438 cases having been attended during the year, and a total number of 7,093 visits paid. Unfortunately, the financial report for the past year shows a deficit of £12 3s. 5d., but the sum at the credit of capital account is now £983 17s. 10d.

The finances of St. Patrick Nurses' Home for supplying trained nurses to visit the sick poor of Dublin cannot show such a satisfactory condition; indeed, but for an anonymous gift of £1,100 sent through the Archbishop of Dublin, and some other donations, the expenditure of the Home would largely have exceeded its income. It is to be hoped that it will receive increased support, for the good done is unquestionable, and is carried out without regard to the religious belief of the patients.

On the evening of January 26th the Irish Nurses' Association met in Dublin to read the Draft Bills for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. Miss Huxley, after a visit to London, during which she attended the special meeting of members of the S.R.S., opened the discussion, supported by Miss Kelly and others. We congratulate Irish nurses upon having formed a central society for the purpose of taking their rightful share in discussing all matters connected with their profession at large. We hope they will now take an active part in pushing forward just legislation for nurses.

We cordially endorse the action of the Dogs' Protection League, which has arranged to receive "lady probationers" at its kennels at Paddington to undergo a thorough course of training in dog nursing. At the completion of the course the nurse will be subjected to an examination, and, if found competent, certificated, when she will be sent out to nurse canine patients. Probationers are received free of charge, but will be required to find their own uniforms. The idea is excellent, but will the nurses thus trained be eligible for Registration?

The latest phase of the "beauty doctor" movement is that dogs in Paris have now their own specialist. A contemporary publishes the list of fees charged by this canine doctor. They include:—

Changing the shape of the muzzle, 32s.; producing wrinkles in a bull dog's face, 64s.; curling a smooth tail, 16s.; changing the dimensions of the tail, 16s.; removing surplus hair, per hour, 4s.; changing the colour of the hair, 24s.; transforming a hanging ear into an erect one, and *vice versa*, 16s.; bending a bull-dog's fore-legs, £4. No doubt these pampered pets in Paris will soon have their own nurses as well as their medical attendants.

The Annual Meeting of the Folk-Lore Society at 22, Albemarle Street, last week, was rendered specially interesting by the exhibition by Mr. R. Webb of the kit of a "medicine man" in Bondé, Central East Africa, who also described and explained the use of the various articles. They included several gourds with quaintly-fashioned stoppers, a divining rod, an operating knife, a bottle made from the skull of a gazelle, a powder used to protect cornfields from theft, a number of "medicines," and the basket, borne on the witch-doctor's back, in which they are usually carried. One of the medicines, into the preparation of which ordinary gunpowder enters, is supposed to be effective in skin diseases. Another is used in the treatment of consumption. It is made of a powder mixed with oil, and is plastered on the patient's breast after the outer skin has been freely scarified with a knife. With the medicines were two pieces of human bone used in pounding the mixtures, and also a snail's shell, which if buried beneath an enemy's house is supposed to lead to his death. There were in addition specimens of the charms worn by the natives to protect them from the effects of witchcraft.

How far the witch-doctor had dealings with unknown powers, the lecturer said he had not sufficient knowledge of the subject to decide. The doctors believed themselves to be influenced by the supernatural, and undoubtedly the terror they inspired actually caused the death of their dupes, who got into such a state of abject fear that they gradually pined away. Hatred, strife, and even murder were also caused by the witch-doctors.

We believe that those who have come most closely in contact with the power of witchcraft in East Africa are not inclined to regard it merely as superstition, but think that the witch-doctors have real power through alliance with evil. The day has not yet dawned when "all the kingdoms of the world shall be the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ"; East Africa has never yet been won for Him, and those who have lived there have certainly recognised the reality of the sway of the Evil One. Thus a nurse who for many years worked in Africa seemed principally impressed on her return to this country by the fact that "there seem to be so many good spirits in the air."

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