

a corresponding number of patients; this is placed at £2,691 2s., which again is far too low an estimate.

Indeed, taking into consideration the cost of rent, rates, and taxes, and the general expense of living at the West End of London, we confess to considerable scepticism as to the 7½ per cent. which the shareholders hope to receive from a Home charging its patients two, three, and four guineas a week, that is, if the standard of nursing essential to the well-being of the sick is maintained.

We notice that it is also intended to maintain a staff of private nurses. We hope that it is not intended to treat them as a commercial asset, or to undersell the trained nurses of the metropolis working on a co-operative basis.

Annotations.

THE CITY OF THE FUTURE.

Most visitors to Berlin are immensely struck by its spaciousness, magnificent buildings, gardens and greenery, the noble statuary, cleanliness, and the rapid means of transit in all directions at popular prices. It is all very new, but it is a city for the people, and it is such cities to which the *Speaker* refers when it remarks that "the city has come to stay." But the city that endures will be the city transformed out of all recognition from the random and squalid aggregations of the present.

"In the years to come the changes that are now advanced timidly and with halting footsteps will seem so entirely natural and right that the resistance to their progress will appear frankly incomprehensible. That the city itself should control its own development; that the betterment which is created by its activities should go to the commonwealth of the community; that vacant land should bear its full value of taxation; that the assessment of municipal rate should no longer take the form of a tax on homes; that parks and free spaces should be within the reach of every citizen, and the common schools surrounded by playgrounds and gardens and open fields; that the liberal arts, painting, decoration, music, should become functions of the city's activities; that, in a word, the present combination of private opulence and public meanness should be entirely reversed into a condition of individual simplicity and communal splendour—these are some of the changes through which alone the present chaos can pass into a

civilisation, and the soul be kept alive in the cities of England."

PARLOUR TRICKS.

Guy's Hospital Gazette has the courage of its opinions; and those who know the true inwardness of many medical reputations will heartily agree with the following expression of opinion:—

"If a general medical practitioner has any artistic taste at all it is worth cultivating, if only from a commercial point of view. Should you be able to talk music or books you will make a place where your medical knowledge may afterwards flourish and bear much fruit. A few parlour tricks are of more use to a young man than half a page in the directory."

But there are other types of parlour tricks without which it is very difficult to succeed in practice, and for which the hideous vulgarity of the age must be held responsible. Who has not heard of the suburban invalid who objected to pay a West End consultant an adequate fee because "he came in a cab" instead of "a carriage and pair"? and what canny general practitioner can afford to risk practice by calling in a "cab" consultant, however skilful, when a "carriage" consultant can be had for the same fee, especially as neither skill nor knowledge can possibly be estimated by the payee?

Then how about the friend at Court? The man in possession recommends his "devil," and one fine day "poor A," who has neither the brains nor the stamina to win the race in fair competition, finds himself away ahead of poorer and more brilliant men; by-and-by he has to put up a new door-plate, with a string of magic letters after his name, and the snobocracy frequents his front parlour in the firm conviction that it is getting its money's worth. Anyway, let us hope it gets its deserts.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

Miss Isla Stewart and Miss Huxley proved excellent witnesses before the Select Committee on Nursing last Tuesday. They gave clear and valuable evidence on the methods of nursing education now pursued at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and in Dublin. Miss Stewart caused great interest to the Committee by handing in the only official document she had received from St. Thomas's Hospital as evidence of her training and six years' work in that institution, and which was a letter stating that a gratuity of £2 had been awarded to her because of her good behaviour!

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