

modation for twenty-seven men and twenty-seven women. Each ward measures 72 ft. long, 21 ft. wide, and 12 ft. high, and has a Sister's room, scullery, bath-room, &c. attached to it. The floors are finished with cement, while the walls throughout are lined with light green opalite—a special gift of Mr. Louis E. Raphaël. As the wards are constructed side by side—two of them running parallel to the other two—special attention has been given to the ventilation, which is obtained by raised lanterns in the roof along the back of the wards, thus securing a through draught of air. A large kitchen and scullery—to be used exclusively for these wards—which are constructed in the centre of the floor with two wards each side of them, are paved with mosaic, the walls being tiled. A wide balcony is fixed round the south end of the building.

A member of the Council of Management of the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, has promised a contribution of £2,000 towards the fund now being raised for a nurses' home and sanitary tower in connection with the hospital, upon the condition that the additional £3,000 which is necessary to meet the cost of the work is subscribed by June 30 next.

At a public meeting held recently at the Midland Railway Hotel, the Earl of Mansfield advocated the establishment of a milk depôt for infants in the Borough of St. Pancras, and Mr. Moon, M.P., moved a resolution declaring the desirability of establishing depôts where milk can be dispensed so modified as to be adapted to the needs of individual cases. Mr. W. H. Dickenson, Sir Lauder Brunton, M.D., and others having supported the resolution, a committee was formed for the purpose of supporting the object aimed at. Mr. Dickenson showed that in Liverpool the establishment of a milk depôt for children had resulted in reducing the mortality of children under one year of age by 50 per cent. Sir Lauder Brunton thought what was wanted in the first place was the education of mothers amongst the poor, and in the second, a pure milk supply should be ensured by compelling farmers to conform to Government regulations.

At a special general meeting of subscribers of the Southern and Maternity Hospitals, Manchester, which was held recently at St. Mary's Hospital, the Chair man explained the arrangement provisionally made with the Board of St. Mary's Hospital for the amalgamation of the two charities, and asked for the sanction of subscribers to the hospital to its adoption. The terms of the amalgamation provide for the maintenance of the present St. Mary's Hospital in Whitworth Street West, and the new Southern and Maternity Hospital intended to be built in High Street, Oxford Road, and York Place, under the name of "The St. Mary's Hospitals," with such other distinctive names as may be decided upon, under a Board which will include members of the present Boards of the respective hospitals.

The noted explorer Dathan de Saint-Cyr, whose works on the cure of consumption by a plant of the West Indies are so well known, has just placed his thesis on that subject before the Académie de Médecine. The communication has caused the greatest interest in medical circles.

## Professional Review.

### "NURSING IN MODERN COUNTRIES."

A Socio-Statistical Study by Alfred von Lindheim, Vienna.

The increasing importance of skilled nursing makes it highly necessary that statistical and thorough-going information should be available as to the systems and conditions under which nursing in modern countries is carried on, to the end that propositions for reform may be intelligently conceived. Herr Alfred von Lindheim, member of the Austrian Landtag, who has previously made valuable contributions to the fund of public knowledge on this question, has, in the above work, the first and only one of the kind, distinguished himself by giving with fulness and accuracy a wealth of detail which has previously been almost or altogether unavailable for useful purposes.

As Leyden says, skilled nursing is to-day an indispensable, independent, special department of scientific medicine. Passing over that part of the book which gives an outline of nursing in ancient and mediæval times, von Lindheim considers that only in the middle of the eighteenth century orderly conditions began appearing in nursing, as in medicine. [So far as nursing is concerned, we should say the nineteenth—Ed.] Without detailing all the progress of medical science, he states it as an inconceivable proposition that the medical and surgical art to-day could be thought of without the skilled nursing on which the physician must rely.

He gives an interesting comparison of the conditions of Austria and Germany with those of other civilised countries. Austria, in 1848, had 139 hospitals, with, in round numbers, 12,000 beds. In 1897 she had 604, with 41,000 beds. Insufficient number though this is, the supply of nurses is still more inadequate. With the greatest care and patience under difficulties, he succeeded in making an exact count of the persons employed as nurses in Austria, which he gives at about 15,000.

In comparison with German, and especially Prussian figures, the Austrian bed capacity and nursing body are between from 200 to 300 per cent. too low. Yet Germany shows inadequate figures when compared with England, Italy, France, &c.

Von Lindheim gives as a reason for this the absence of any unifying imperial law in regard to hospitals. Municipalities are only by law required to provide hospitals for contagion and epidemics. There is no provision requiring the erection of general hospitals. (But neither is there in England).

He gives a complete account of the German sanatoria for tuberculosis, which he estimates at, in the spring of 1904, seventy-one for workers or indigent persons, and twenty-seven private, for pay cases. He points out that this progress has only been made possible by the help of the insurance associations against illness (Invaliden versicherungs-anstalten), and urges a noble rivalry of this most useful social endeavour. Exceedingly interesting are his figures of the relative mortality of physicians and nurses. Passing over the former and taking those for the latter only, the nurses of religious orders are found most prominent for high mortality, and are especially the prey of tuberculosis. The danger lies distinctly, not in the service of the sick so much as in the unwholesome conditions of con-

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