

The Northallerton Guardians are again discussing the question of the nursing in their sick wards, and have now carried a resolution "that the Matron be responsible for the nursing in the infirmary, and that all instructions by the medical officer be given to her, and that she see they are carried out; that an assistant nurse be engaged with one year's training, who would receive her instructions from, and be under the supervision of the Matron, and be required to do any duty, and fill up her spare time by sewing and mending for the inmates as the Matron might think necessary." Mr. Hall, the proposer of the resolution, said that by this arrangement the assistant nurse could, by being occasionally relieved from day duty, act as night attendant when occasion required it. He did not mention who was to look after the patients in these circumstances. If the Guardians have no more appreciation of their obligations to the sick poor than appears from their action it is time that the Local Government Board stepped in and insisted that the patients shall receive skilled attention both day and night. The question is one involving not only comfort, but life itself.

Dr. Alfred Worcester, of Waltham, has just returned from a six months' trip in Europe, says the *Johns Hopkins Nurses' Magazine*, where he was sent by Harvard to investigate methods of training for nurses, with a view to taking charge of a college for nurses which Harvard is going to establish. The plans for the new college, which will be the first of its kind to be established in the world in connection with a university, have been kept very quiet during the period of investigation. Now that plans have been completed, and it is settled that Harvard will install another department with a four years' course to be devoted to the education of trained nurses, the matter has become public. Dr. Worcester says:—"I have been working on this matter under the instructions of President Eliot for about two years. While I was in Europe the president announced to some graduates at an alumni dinner that the school would be established under my directions, so it has passed the uncertain stage. I spent most of the six months that I was abroad in Germany studying the training-schools there—the methods, the results, the virtues of the system and its deficiencies. The principal feature in which our scheme differs from those employed in hospital training-schools is that we believe in the education of the nurse preliminary to the actual practice. Our nurses, besides lectures and textbooks, will receive training experience in private homes with private patients, as well as in the hospital wards. This will be the first time that any university has taken up this kind of work, and it will be a great change in Harvard's policy. For instance, most of our students will be women. Columbia has a trained nurse department, but the work there is intended to fit a student to be a superintendent more than an actual nurse."

## Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The pretty new hospital, hidden away in Soho, for the special treatment of aural and allied diseases—the Royal Ear Hospital—was opened on Monday by Lord and Lady Cheylesmore, the Mayor and Mayoress of Westminster. Many friends and supporters of the institution were present, and admired the arrangements and bright appearance of the wards. There is a debt, of course, which £6,500 would clear off. We hope a goodly sum was donated at the opening ceremony.

An appeal is being made by Charing Cross Hospital, which has recently spent over £140,000 in connection with the extension scheme. In order to raise a portion of this sum the site and buildings have been mortgaged. Notwithstanding this step, the contractors for building, furnishing, and general equipment still remain unsatisfied to the amount of £12,000. In addition, £20,000 is required to complete the new accommodation for the nursing staff and to renovate part of the old structure. The annual income of the hospital is about £16,000. A supplementary sum of no less than £60,000 is necessary to meet the requirements of the institution within the next five years. As the Committee are making every effort to make the hospital efficient in every department, we must hope that the public will encourage the good work by generous support.

The practice of issuing letters entitling patients to treatment at particular hospitals is being seriously considered by certain institutions that still adhere to the old system. Mr. Sydney Holland, explaining at a recent meeting of the Governors of the London Hospital why the House Committee of that institution decided to stop the use of letters of admission, said that these had been sold, and people could not get them unless they traded at certain shops. Can anything be more abominable than obtaining money from the sick poor by such means? Hardly.

The Chelsea Hospital for Women has undergone important alterations in its operating theatre and sterilising room in order to render these departments as perfect as possible. The statistics of the hospital show that it is regarded by doctors all over the country as a safe resort in the worst cases of those many distressing diseases to which women are liable. It has been necessary, therefore, to give the patients all the advantages of the latest medical and nursing science, not only to ensure success in their treatment, but also to render their cure as speedy as possible, and so make room for others waiting for relief. The value of the hospital and its convalescent home at St. Leonards-on-Sea constantly increases, as the number of women who are compelled to stand the strain of business life becomes yearly larger and larger. The Council makes an earnest appeal for assistance in defraying the cost of the recent improvements and their upkeep, either by donations or new annual subscriptions. The hospital has lately lost an unusually large number of its regular supporters through death.

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