

them, and this is becoming increasingly recognised, so that a reference from her last Matron is frequently and very wisely required of a nurse as a *sine qua non* of appointment.

The Editor of *Truth*, in the trenchant manner which characterises most of his criticisms, draws attention to the charges made to him concerning the customs in one of the hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board. A former patient alleges that patients who were ordered to get up for two hours after the 12 o'clock dinner were encouraged to rise after their breakfast at 6 a.m. to arrange flowers, make beds, and assist the staff generally. They would return to bed before the doctor came round, and after his departure rise again and remain up until 6.30 or 7 p.m. In at least two cases where this disobedience of orders had been permitted the patients had serious relapses, the reason for which could not possibly be known to the medical attendant. This may, or may not, be substantiated on investigation, but every Matron and Sister knows the ceaseless watchfulness which is necessary in matters of this kind.

The Connecticut State Board of Examination and Registration has organised with Miss Emma L. Stowe, superintendent of the Connecticut Training-School for Nurses, as chairman, and Miss R. I. Albaugh as secretary and treasurer. The other members of the board are Miss Mary L. Bolton, of Bridgeport; Miss Charlotte Brown of Hartford; and Miss Love, of Norwich.

With few exceptions the American Registration Bills provide for governing bodies composed exclusively of nurses, an ideal arrangement from a professional standpoint, but one to which we shall not attain till our women prove themselves to possess more courage and less felinity than they have given evidence of hitherto.

In a recent address to the graduating class of the California Hospital Training-School for Nurses, at Los Angeles, Cal., Dr. Woods Hutchinson said:—"With the advent of this third branch of our profession—the trained nurse—medicine becomes more of a science. While it may not be strictly her business to revise and improve upon the doctor's diagnosis, at the same time if he makes a mistake she knows it, and he knows that she knows it. He may conceal the blunder from the patient and from the patient's family—but never from the professional nurse, hence he will do almost anything rather than make a second mistake. Another thing that this third branch of our profession has taught us is to rely more upon nature and nursing and less upon drugs—to work with nature instead of fighting against it."

## Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Hospital Saturday in London is fixed for Saturday, October 14th. The Council, in a circular which they have just issued, state:—"For thirty-one years the Hospital Saturday Fund has appealed to workpeople, and those employed in places of business, to help in supporting the metropolitan hospitals. The annual income of the fund is now about £24,000, which is obtained from some 6,000 firms. After allowing for a considerable number whose employes contribute directly to local institutions, and of those who give donations to King Edward's Hospital Fund or to the Hospital Sunday Fund, there are probably thousands of firms whose employes do not help the hospitals to any appreciable extent. Since its foundation in 1873, the fund has collected and distributed among the medical charities of London £367,138. In recent years there have been about 195 participating institutions."

The Royal Commission on the Care and Control of the Feeble-Minded have deputed five of their members to visit America to inquire into the arrangements made there for the care and control of persons coming within the terms of their reference. The five Commissioners, who proceeded to America by the steamship *Etruria*, are:—Mr. W. P. Byrne, C.B., of the Home Office; Mr. W. H. Dickinson, L.C.C., Chairman of the National Association for Promoting the Welfare of the Feeble-Minded; Dr. H. B. Donkin, one of the Commissioners of Prisons; Dr. J. C. Dunlop, Inspector under the Inebriates Acts in Scotland; and Mrs. Pinsent, of Birmingham.

The late Dr. Barnardo saw a good deal of the seamy side of life, and had many curious experiences to relate, says the *Westminster Gazette*. To someone who once asked if he could "hire infants" or "borrow infants" he replied, "Yes, and buy them, too."

"I know of several lodging-houses where I could hire a baby from fourpence to a shilling a day. The prettier the child is the better; should it happen to be a cripple, or possessing particularly thin arms and face, it is always worth a shilling. Little girls always demand a higher price than boys. I knew of one woman—her supposed husband sells chickweed and groundsel—who has carried a baby exactly the same size for the last nine or ten years!"

Dr. Barnardo added that he himself had in days gone by bought children in order to rescue them. Such a step has not been needful of late years, owing to changes in the law, which enabled him to get possession of such children by better methods.

A new workhouse infirmary for Leicester has been opened at North Evington. Its total cost was £120,000. The building is one of the largest of its kind in the kingdom, and will accommodate over 500 patients, with facilities for enlargement, so that 400 more can be accommodated. Councillor A. Kemp (Chairman of the Infirmary Committee), who opened the building, said the time was inopportune for large schemes, but during the commercial depression the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)