

of quiet courage and professional acumen. Miss Jones is a dependable registrationist; she acts as Lady Consul for the R.B.N.A. in Birmingham, and is a member and Vice-President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

Before building new hospitals, committees and Matrons should certainly see and study the Plenum system of ventilation and the Domestic Department at the General Hospital, Birmingham.

E. G. F.

### Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

Mr. Isaac H. Benjamin, of 25, Sandringham Road, Dalston, a well-known East End collector for the London and Metropolitan Hospitals, has just received a silver medal for collecting in the neighbourhood of Whitechapel the sum of £238 in pennies for the London Hospital. Mr. Benjamin's work is entirely voluntary, and he regards it as a labour of love. His services are highly appreciated by the hospital authorities, and he has also received a medal from the Metropolitan Hospital for similar self-sacrificing efforts.

The Duke of Abercorn, who will preside at a festival dinner on December 14th in aid of the West London Hospital, is appealing for financial support for the institution. The hospital has a present need of money to build, furnish, and equip:—(1) Another wing of from eighty to 100 beds; (2) a nursing home; (3) an administrative block. No general hospital in London, says the Duke, carries on its work with more painstaking economy. The annual cost per bed and per patient is only one-half that of some of the great London hospitals, and this economy is not achieved by parsimony and inefficiency, but by stringent care and constant supervision.

Protesting against the expenditure of £6,000 on a new Nurses' Home, when the local rates were 9s. 8d. in the pound, it was decided by a large meeting of ratepayers held at St. Peter's Schools, Mile End, last week, to petition the Local Government Board to withhold their sanction to the contract accepted by the Guardians. This is a pity, as the Home is greatly needed. As one of the members of the Board in favour of the scheme remarked, at present the nurses are "housed like rabbits."

Princess Henry of Battenberg, accompanied by her daughter, recently opened a bazaar at Darlington on behalf of the local hospital. After going round the stalls, where many purchases were made, Her Royal Highness paid a visit to the hospital, and took tea with the Matron. During the afternoon Mrs. John Scott, of Danby Lodge, handed a £1,000 banknote to the Mayor as a contribution towards the required fund.

The Marchioness of Hertford recently laid the foundation-stone of a new wing of the Midland Counties Home at Leamington, which is being erected by subscription to the memory of the late chairman, General Radcliffe. The wing, when complete, will accommodate fifteen additional patients, bringing up the total to 106.

### Our Foreign Letter.

#### NURSING AT THE ANTIPODES.

There are some of us on the other side of the world who are somewhat relieved to see healthy difference of



opinion in the Australasian nursing world; to have everything cut and dried becomes monotonous after a time. Lately I have had an opportunity of seeing

a bit behind the scenes, and have come to the conclusion that the advice you gave us in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING as to the organisation of a Federation of Australasian Nurses' Associations is the most just, and the only line upon which local or State Associations can maintain their autonomy. The two great Associations of Nurses of New South Wales and Victoria have different standards, the former registers maternity and other specialists, and in Victoria the standard is higher, as special nursing certificates can only be recognised plus a certificate of general training; this is the crux of the present difference of opinion, and the latter strongly objects to be absorbed into the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association. New Zealand stands away head with State Registration, and Tasmania is also wisely going strong for legal status. The truth is that matters have now reached a pitch of organisation in the Australasian States which must ere long be recognised and hall-marked by their Parliaments, or they will begin to disintegrate. For a voluntary association it is beginning to be felt that the R.T.V.N.A. is interfering far too much with the liberty of the nurse, and it is an open secret that the number of certificates now required is calculated to create a class of cheap nurse for some of the special hospitals. Nurses grumble and do nothing (how like them! Ed.) but submit. I consider that a three years' certificate ought to qualify for complete registration, but if we require a nurse to get special certificates of obstetric and infectious disease nursing, then, in the interests of nurses, the special hospitals should be affiliated to the general hospitals, otherwise the period of training will take five years, and cost at least £30 in premiums and uniform. The opponents to affiliation are usually the matrons of the big schools, who say they can get plenty of probationers on their own terms. But from a high professional standpoint that is not the question. Surely what is just to the rank and file of the profession should receive due consideration from those in influential positions.

Another grievance whispered low is that the Association is interfering too much between the Matron and pupil in the matter of selection. Surely if the hospital is a training-school, the Matron should be qualified, and may be trusted, to select suitable candidates, both from an educational and health standpoint. Much has been done to improve the education of nurses in hospitals, but still much requires to be done. Nurses are being taught, but in many instances they are not being trained on any consistent plan. For instance, a nurse may spend most of

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)