

We learn that Miss Todd's paper on "How to Start a Linen Guild" has aroused great interest, and that several Matrons have already set about forming similar Guilds.

Linen Guilds are, as Miss Helen Todd writes, quite the charity fashion of the hour—and very useful they are proving to the hospitals to which they are attached. At the Royal United Hospital, Bath, the Ladies' Visiting Association last Friday presented its twelfth annual report, and the following results of its labours, gifts to the hospital, were on view: Large quilts, 50; large blankets, 18; large sheets, 90; cot sheets, 20; pillow slips, 112; night shirts, 18; night gowns, 5; small jackets, 60; large jackets, 91; children's jackets, 26; hand towels, 182; bath towels, 8; roller towels, 44; tray cloths, 23; tea and glass cloths, 134; table cloths, 22; dinner cloths, 36; dusters, 55; pairs of slippers, 12; mortuary sheets, 6; pillow slips, 6; toilet covers, 6; kitchen cloths, 6; sideboard cloths, 12; child's frock, 1; bonnets, 2; total, 1,045.

Mrs. Handley, the President of the Guild, wrote that she desired to see a pall presented by the association for use in the mortuary. The design and colour she left to the committee, but suggested it should be violet with a white cross upon it, and she was sure the Hospital Committee would be pleased to receive that gift, and that the ladies of the association would not regret the money being taken out of the coffers of the Guild for the purpose.

Sheffield shows a deficit of £200 upon the working of its Jubilee District Nurses. This is not creditable to the public spirit and common-sense of this rich city. As a matter of clarity the work of Queen's Nurses ranks next in importance to the work of our hospitals. Indeed, but for the devoted labour of the district nurses, the work of the hospital would often be incomplete, while the cost of it might be largely increased. That is where common-sense, as well as charity, pleads for a more generous support for District Nursing Associations. In the course of her daily visitation in the slums, the nurse imparts sanitary information and performs sanitary work, to an extent that must have an appreciable influence on the general health of the community. But for these nurses, our epidemics would be worse and our rates higher.

The question of bad-tempered people and lunatics in the Tunbridge Wells Workhouse recently brought to light the fact that "a very

bad-tempered female inmate had badly scratched one of the trained nurses, who had in consequence resigned." The Master said "the male lunatics gave no trouble, for if they broke a window they simply mended it themselves. They were easily managed, as they had an attendant." The Master is evidently not concerned about the cost of glass—that, of course, is a concern of the unfortunate ratepayer.

The plans prepared for the new Nurses' Home at the Portsmouth Infirmary, which is most urgently needed, have been forwarded to the Local Government Board for approval, so it is to be hoped the work will speedily be put in hand. The Mayor said at a recent meeting of the Guardians that it would be a great relief to the Unemployed Committee to have this bit of work for the men to do.

At the monthly meeting of the Basford Urban District Council the Hospital Committee reported that Nurse Gaskin, at the Sanatorium, had attended before them with reference to a letter recently referred to the Matron by Mr. Leopold de Rothschild. In the letter Mr. de Rothschild was asked for £6 to pay for the maintenance of a lad, stated to be suffering from phthisis, in the Sanatorium. The medical officer informed the Committee that there was no such case in the institution, neither was payment required for any patient therein. The nurse being asked her reason for writing such a letter, at first repudiated its authorship, but afterwards admitted that she had written it. She was summarily dismissed, her salary being paid in lieu of notice.

Summary dismissal from an institution does not, however, mean exclusion from the nursing profession, nor is there any central disciplinary authority which can deal with a case of this kind. Is the nurse one whom the public desire to enter their houses as a private nurse? If not, how do they propose to prevent it? This is just one of those cases which, if the Registration of Trained Nurses by the State were in force, would be dealt with by the General Nursing Council.

The *Lancet* says:—

"In order to obviate the difficulty that has hitherto arisen in India in obtaining the services of skilled nurses, Lady Curzon has initiated a scheme for supplying in that country and in Burma a staff of trained European nurses who would be available for taking charge of cases of sickness at the private residences of the sufferers or at a hospital, as might be most convenient to the patient. For the purpose

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)