

joke, or is an attempt on the part of someone entirely ignorant of Nurses, to launch some of them into an undertaking which would bring them at once into difficulties of the gravest character, and almost equally certainly into debt as well.

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I AM very glad to be able to note that a serious and solid attempt is being made by a number of medical men and scientists to solve the mysteries (if mysteries there be) of that hitherto uninvestigated subject or science called hypnotism, and with that view a society has been formed, called—

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THE London Hypnotic Society, which is the outcome of steps taken in the summer of 1889 to promote an association having for its objects the study of hypnotism as a curative agent; the investigation of hypnotic phenomena in all their bearings, physiological and psychological; and the organisation of an institute where hypnotic practice for curative purposes shall be carried on uninterruptedly in experienced and responsible hands. The society has been successfully founded, and the institute is now in operation under the direction of the distinguished hypnotist, Mr. Carl Hansen, of Copenhagen, who has had between thirty and forty years' experience in the practice of curative hypnotism, and who has founded many similar institutions on the Continent and in our Colonies.

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DURING the last twelve or fifteen years hypnotism in Western Europe has made such strides and proved itself of such efficacy in the hands of German and French physiologists, and in the great Hospitals of the Salpêtrière, Bordeaux, Nancy, &c., as to attract not only the notice of the whole Medical profession abroad, but the legislative action of several European Governments. That hypnotic treatment in this country should have been up to the present less widely adopted by the faculty is probably to be accounted for by the facts that experienced and reliable operators have rarely been available, and that opportunities in public or private of observing and investigating the effects of hypnotism in actual practice have been to a great extent absent. The establishment of the institute will tend to remove both these obstacles to the advance of hypnotism in this country, and an arrangement by which Mr. Hansen devotes certain hours on four days a week to the treatment of patients will doubtless afford to physiologists, psychologists, and those interested ample opportunities of investigation and record, of which it is hoped they will fully avail themselves.

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THE general scope of hypnotic practice, the aspects

of hypnogenesis and of the several hypnotic stages, and the various associated phenomena of a psychophysiological character arising in connection therewith, will form the subjects of periodical lectures by Mr. Hansen and others (illustrated, when desirable, by experiments and demonstration), at the society's meetings, which will be held at frequent and regular intervals. Instruction in hypnotic practice will be given at the institute by the Director to applicants approved of by the Committee. Further information may be obtained on application to the Director, Mr. Carl Hansen, 23, Abingdon Villas, Kensington; or from Mr. F. W. Hayes, Hon. Sec., 12, Westcroft Square, W.

MR. HANSEN writes me to say that if he can get a sufficient number of Nurses to make application (not less than twenty), he will form a class and give demonstrations in hypnotism. Those who are at all interested in the matter (and there is no doubt about the fact that hypnotism will form one of the means of treatment in the immediate future of disease, just as electricity is doing at the present) should communicate with Mr. Hansen, who will supply them with all particulars. Nurses need have no fear of anything in this society approaching empiricism or quackery.

THE winner in the sixteenth Prize Essay Competition, which my readers will remember was upon the following subject, "Describe the best manner in which a kitchen should be fitted up suitable for the Staff and patients in a Hospital or Home of twenty beds, the utensils required, the makers' names and approximate cost of them, and mention every detail considered necessary for the smooth and proper conduct of such kitchen," has been, I am instructed to say, adjudged to be, after an exceedingly close contest (all the more credit to the successful ones), Miss Helen Foggo-Thomson, the new Secretary and Registrar of the British Nurses' Association; whilst a "consolation prize" will be awarded to Miss Emily Louisa Symonds, of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. Both of these essays—as, indeed, are most of those sent in—are of an extremely practical character, well put together, and in every way, I should say, worthy of the judges' award. My heartiest congratulations to both these ladies.

IF I may judge from the excellent press reviews I have seen, my talented colleague's (Miss Veva Karsland) new books are a distinct success. They are, "Smitten and Slain, a Nineteenth Century Romance of Life in China" (published by Messrs. T. Nelson and Sons, Paternoster Row, E.C., price two shillings and sixpence), and "Mad! Mad! Mad!"—a title sufficiently startling to cause

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