

exhibition, and that another room has been furnished as a reading-room and library, and will be kept well supplied with most of the leading Medical and lay papers, and a complete series of professional works of reference."

I AM told that the exhibition and reading-room will be open daily during Office hours—that is to say from nine a.m. to four p.m., and on Wednesday evenings from six to nine o'clock—to Members. Considering the very central position of the Offices, I can well believe that a large number of Nurses will wend their way in off-duty hours to the reading-room and exhibition. But I would like to suggest that if some arrangement could be made whereby Probationers and others, who are not eligible for Membership of the Association, could by payment of a small charge be allowed to visit the exhibition and use the reading-room, the benefits of these schemes would be more widely extended still. And besides this, the Association itself, I cannot but think, would be a gainer also, because it would be brought in touch with the Nurses of the future, and the great principles for which it is working would be made clear to many who would therefore as soon as they were eligible be desirous to join its ranks.

THE appointment of Miss Gordon—the Matron of the Leeds Infirmary—to the Matronship of St. Thomas's Hospital is announced. Most of my readers are doubtless aware that Miss Pringle resigned her appointment on her secession to the Roman Catholic Church. Miss Pringle's retirement will be regretted by many who fully recognised the high and honourable motives by which she was always actuated, even when they differed most from her. Miss Gordon belongs to a distinguished Nursing family, as one of her sisters is Matron of the Royal Southern Hospital at Liverpool, and another is Matron of Charing Cross Hospital. And she is well known herself for the high degree of efficiency to which she has brought the Nursing department of the General Infirmary at Leeds during the tenure of her office at that great institution.

IN reference to the washable respirator mentioned in the "Inventions" columns last week, Miss Dranfield writes:—"I have been advised to get the respirator into a London wholesale house. I shall also improve the frame on which the gauze tissue is placed. The shape of the large one is altered, and the Doctors say that it will prove useful to administer chloroform with. A very neat respirator is made of flesh-coloured silk, with a silver frame inside, which may be useful

to the more wealthy and fastidious of invalids. I have already received many letters of appreciation."

A KIND correspondent writes me, respecting my opinions expressed in these columns on Feb. 27, which concerned the Nurses in Poorhouse Infirmaries:—"I remember," says the correspondent in question, "a case in which a certain Board of Guardians was asked by the Matron *not* to appoint a Trained Nurse to assist the Matron. On her request being made, one of the guardians (an ex-police Inspector, an excellent man, perhaps, in chasing boys off a common) made the remarkable statement that the board did *wrong* to appoint a Trained Nurse."

BUT I am greatly pleased to note that the Local Government Board are taking the matter up tolerably seriously, as the following cut from a northern paper witnesses:—

#### THE WORKHOUSE NURSE QUESTION.

The following letter was read from the Local Government Board:—"I am directed by the Local Government Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th ult., from which it appears that the Guardians of the Whitehaven Union do not propose to fill up the existing vacancy in the office of Nurse at the Workhouse, but to arrange for the duties to be performed by a pauper inmate, under the supervision of the Matron. The Board have given this proposal their careful consideration, but are of opinion that it is open to serious objection. So many instances of evil resulting from the system of pauper Nursing have come to the Board's notice that they are very reluctant to assent to its adoption, except in the case of very small workhouses, where the number is extremely limited. In the present case the Board find from the report of their inspector, Mr. Murray Browne, that on the occasion of his visit to the Workhouse on the 15th ult., there were fourteen men in the male Infirmary, and ten women in the Female Infirmary and Lying-in Ward, and they cannot avoid the conclusion that, under these circumstances, the services of a properly Trained Nurse are urgently required. The Board are aware that the Nurses recently employed by the Guardians have not performed their duties satisfactorily, but they do not regard this as a sufficient reason for not proceeding to another appointment, and they must, therefore, request that the Guardians will be good enough to reconsider the question, with the view of filling up the vacancy at an early date."—The Chairman said the Local Government Board were not satisfied with their action, and they asked the Board to reconsider their decision. As the members were aware, they could not reconsider the matter until after the lapse of three months, according to their by-laws.—The Clerk said he would write to the Local Government Board to that effect.

I SINCERELY hope that the Local Government Board will continue firm in its apparent resolution to endeavour to put an end to what is a glaring and incomprehensible scandal, *i.e.*, the employment of unqualified Nurses for the patients of our Poorhouse Infirmaries.

IN ending her letter my correspondent says some

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