

face and in an almost asphyxiated condition. As the only chance of preserving its life the operation of tracheotomy was instantly performed. Next day, notwithstanding all the efforts which had been put forth, the child died. A *post-mortem* examination showed that the sufferer had laboured under the disease of diphtheria. No doubt Miss Close had come into too near contact with the child, and, in a few days afterwards, her own life trembled in the balance, under the influence of this disease. Through the blessing of Providence, and the skilful and constant exertions of Dr. Philipson and Dr. Oliver, and the officers of the House, Miss Close was restored to comparative health. A visit to her friends, in the south of England, has greatly invigorated her, and she is again discharging her arduous duties with nearly all her former vigour.

"In former Reports, the insufficient accommodation for the Nurses in the Infirmary has been dwelt upon. They had no sitting-room, and their bedrooms were crowded in an objectionable manner. Young women of the middle-class of Society, who would gladly come to the Infirmary without fee or reward for a couple of years or more, with the view of being instructed in the art and science of Nursing, could not, under such conditions, offer us their services. Owing to these circumstances, our staff of Nurses was less than the Institution required, and on several occasions, of late, Nurses had to be hired from the outside, and sometimes they could not be obtained when required, at whatever cost.

"UNDER these circumstances, the Committee have been compelled to hire a house, which shall be regarded as a Nurses' Home. The house, 20, Wentworth Place, has been taken at a rental of £50 a year. This house was the nearest to the Infirmary of any of a suitable character which could be obtained. It has been furnished in a fitting manner; a housekeeper and servant have been appointed. It is now a bright and cheerful home for all the Night Nurses, whose health is promoted by their walk, morning and evening, between the Home and the Infirmary.

"It is hoped that no increased expenditure, but rather a saving, will result from this measure. By this addition, more space within the walls of the Infirmary is now available for the adequate accommodation of the resident Nurses and other officers. The Honorary Staff and Committee have been anxious to promote the professional knowledge of the Nursing Staff. Regular courses of lectures are now given them by the Honorary Medical Officers. The Matron gives regular in-

struction upon the duties which belong especially to the Nursing Department."

THE following is taken from our bright contemporary, the *Figaro*:—"The idea of starting a Hospital for Sick Gentlewomen is a very good one, and deserves supporting—or rather I should say organising—for it would be partially self-supporting from the first. An unmarried woman, earning her own living, has practically nowhere to go should she fall ill. She has a feeling—and a natural one—that the ordinary hospitals are not for her, partly because they are entirely free, and she does not like to be otherwise than independent even in illness, and partly because they are not arranged to suit the refined disposition of a lady. The paying Hospitals give food, medical attention, and Nursing for twenty-one shillings or forty-two shillings a week, it is true; but few governesses, artists, or type-writers earn a sufficient income to be able to save enough to pay for a two or three months' illness at this rate, added to the expense of subsequent inactivity, produced by weakness. The proposal is the establishment of an Institution where ladies can get proper Nursing by paying all the year round a certain amount weekly or monthly. It would be the same principle as that employed at the Provident Dispensaries, and as many members would never require to benefit by the Institution, the ninepence or one shilling a week subscribed regularly would go a good way towards supporting the proposed Hospital. Of course the first expenses would have to be defrayed by the subscriptions of the wealthy; but surely many of the rich ladies of England would help to conquer that difficulty if some energetic spirit would set the ball in motion."

I AM informed that Miss Alice Maud Mary Blumenthal, the Lady Superintendent of the Barnhill Hospital, Glasgow, has just been appointed Matron of the Fulham Union Infirmary. I have not the space at my disposal this week to give the full particulars of this experienced lady's training, appointments, &c., or I should have pleasure in doing so. Miss Blumenthal is a Member of the British Nurses' Association.

RESPECTING my commentary last week, Mr. Editor has handed me the following letter to deal with:—

"DEAR SIR,—I generally sit down to read your *Nursing Record* right through as soon as it comes. I was called away yesterday, and so on coming back must have missed the page connected with my work. The circular is only a preliminary one, simply to find out the wishes of our numerous friends upon the question of its being turned into

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