

We have also handled a presentation copy of that rare little volume, spoken of by Archdeacon Bevan, "Poems by Two Brothers," brought out anonymously in 1827, by Charles and Alfred Tennyson, and given to our grandfather, on the flyleaf of which the autograph of both poets was inscribed, "the former the bigger genius of the two," according to the recipient. We wonder who treasures that little booklet now. It was stolen many years ago. Or has it by sacriligious hands been long since consigned to the flames?

The Salford Guardians have agreed to appoint, at the Matron's request, six additional trained nurses at the Hope Hospital. Mr. F. Townson (the Clerk) said that on several occasions the Local Government Board had pointed out the number of qualified nurses was lower in comparison to the number of probationers than it should be. Mrs. Thompson said that a comparison with other infirmaries showed that, taking the entire nursing staff, there was a nurse to each nine patients, against one to 13 as an average.

Whatever the reason for the well-known discontent at this institution, we are of opinion it is largely due to understaffing the wards. Adverse reports concerning the care of the patients are constantly reported in the local press, and the increase of a well-educated, well-trained nursing staff is the only means whereby the Hope Hospital can hope to satisfy the patients and regain the confidence of the public.

The Guardians of the North Evington Infirmary, near Leicester, have called upon the Matron to resign, and at a recent meeting a largely signed petition from the staff was presented, asking the Board to reconsider its decision, and paying a high tribute to the Matron's characteristics. The Board decided to allow the memorial to lie upon the table (to ignore it). What the outcome of the present embarrassing difficulty will be has yet to be seen. About one thing everybody is agreed. It has become imperative to make a radical change in the staff, with the object of eliminating all friction, and ensuring not only the efficient, but smooth, working of the establishment.

Without any formal ceremony the new Nurses' Home in connection with the Mater Infirmorum Hospital at Belfast was recently opened on the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy. At 8 o'clock Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Macauley, Professor St. Malachy's College, there being a very large attendance of the Sisters of Mercy and the nurses.

The new Home faces the Hospital on the Crumlin Road. The premises which have been acquired at considerable cost have been completely transformed, the alterations and additions being on a most extensive scale. The ground floor is occupied principally by the sitting, reception, and dining rooms, all of which are large and airy; while at the other end there is a well-equipped kitchen, pantry, and scullery. A recreation room is also provided, where the nurses will have an opportunity of reading and studying in the intervals of their labour, and affording each other material help. The first, second, and third floors are occupied by the bed-rooms, and on each landing there are up-to-date and admirably equipped bath-rooms. The building contains accommodation for between 30 and 40 nurses.

A correspondent sends us the following interesting little note:—"A few days ago I was called to see a patient who was very ill with phthisis. After doing what I could to make her comfortable, I went into another room to talk to her relatives for a few minutes. They were Catholics, and in one corner of the room there was a bracket on which stood a statue of the Virgin and Child, with flowers and candlesticks. Just by the feet of the statue there was a strange sight. A canary had elected to make her nest there, and was sitting quite happily covering her eggs—as though she had gone to the Great Mother for protection. The people told me they had tried to induce her to build her nest elsewhere, but she always went back, so in the end they left her unmolested."

The terms of service for the Nursing Staff under the Basutoland Government appear to be planned on a principle which is novel in civil hospitals, as the members of the staff, who, on joining the Service, are required to sign an undertaking to serve in any Government Hospital in Basutoland, receive £60 per annum in lieu of board. They also receive £5 per annum for uniform, and an allowance for laundry. The salaries of Matrons begin at £96 a year, rising by annual increments of £10 to a maximum of £130. Staff Nurses begin at £72 a year, the salary rising by annual increments of £6 to a maximum of £90. Members of the Nursing Staff are accorded the same privileges as regards leave and pension as other civil servants and travelling expenses are paid on their joining the Service. Three months' notice is required to terminate the agreement. Fourteen days' occasional leave, and one month vacation leave are granted annually on full pay.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)