

2,000 people works out at £600 per annum. A trained nurse would only cost £100. There are many small ailments that a good nurse can deal with herself."

We may point out (1) that the first essential is not to save the doctors' bills, but the lives of the patients, and (2) that no fully trained nurse could have penned so ignorant and presumptuous a letter.

We often hear of "Scottish" nursing, as if it was something quite foreign to, and apparently indisputably superior to, the attention bestowed upon sick people in other quarters of the United Kingdom; and as a Scottish woman one may be permitted to smile. Of course we are undoubtedly a very superior race—no one questions that—and in one particular the managers of Scottish hospitals have set an excellent example to those in England and Ireland. Private nursing staffs attached to the leading hospitals for money-making purposes have never been permitted, and we find in all the large centres, such as Edinburgh and Glasgow, flourishing co-operations of private nurses.

At the annual meeting of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Co-operation of Trained Nurses recently held in the Charing Cross Halls, we are pleased to note the satisfactory reports presented. It was stated that the confidence of the medical profession and the public had steadily grown, so that the nurses had always been well employed. At present there were 192 nurses on the staff. The number of cases attended during the year was 2,096, and the amount earned by the nurses was £12,605. Since 1894 the number of cases nursed was 24,271, and the amount earned £145,060. The office-bearers were re-elected for the ensuing year, with the addition of Nurses Hadden, Lennox, A. P. Wilson, and J. A. M'Intosh as members of the Executive Committee in room of the nurses retiring by rotation. We hope to see the day when no hospital manager will consider it just to exploit the work of trained nurses for charity purposes. It is just robbing Peter to pay Paul!

On Friday evening last week Mr. William Taylor, F.R.C.S.I., gave an interesting lecture to the members of the Irish Nurses' Association at 34, St. Stephen's Green, on "Poisons." Miss Reeves, Lady Superintendent of the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, presided.

The monthly meeting of the executive committee was held on Saturday evening. It was agreed to try to enlist the co-operation of all hospitals and institutions in Ireland in the work

which the central body in Dublin is doing in looking after the interests of Irish Nurses, by sending a circular letter round explaining this very onerous work. It was also agreed that some revision of the present Rules was necessary, and that a resolution in regard to this should be tabled at next month's meeting.

In "Snap Shots from Alaska," H. B., in the *Nurses' Journal of the Pacific Coast* throws interesting light on a nurse's work in those chilly regions.

"Our winter had been a severe one, from the Autumn glacier wind, which rocked the building with its terrific gusts for thirty-four long days and nights. Then came heavy snow-falls until we had forty feet, and went upstairs to look over at our neighbour's cabin. Now the bright April sun bringing us spring in the lap of winter, also several cases of snow-blindness to care for.

"Listening to the roar of the snow slides from the mountains, we felt as our patient, 'Rough House Mag' expressed it, 'On the verge of prostitution of the nerves.' She had grub-staked a young prospector, with the promise of his name and manly protection forever, if he made a strike. Having been born handsome, he had probably never expected riches, but fate willed it otherwise. He having refused to marry his benefactress, she attempted suicide, but even that drastic measure failed to make an impression on the indifferent cavalier.

"'Lousy Jim' had just died. Several bleary-eyed individuals, with tears streaming down their faces, came to take away the tenement of clay from which the soul had departed. We asked them why they had not visited him while he was sick; they mumbled some flimsy excuse; but the truth of the matter was they might have been asked to pay his bill. In Alaska people never think of an annual subscription, for the maintenance of a hospital. That would be a sad waste of cash. It would be much more profitable to buy mining stocks, even if you do lose every penny. Gambling, or, as some people prefer to call it, investing, is as necessary to the Alaskan as water for a duck. Of course, if there was a benefit concert or dance given, where they receive value for value, they would attend.

"If a church builds a hospital to care for the sick and injured it must support it, and receive abuse if the management refuse to oblige the public by making a Keeley Cure Institution, a home for incurables, or a detention house for the insane out of it.

"'Kid Lafferty' brought us in a patient with frozen toes; such poor, black, shrivelled stumps they looked. 'Tell Doc,' he said, 'I want to be present at the amputation to see how he does it, and save trouble bringing the next victim to town.' Ten o'clock was the appointed time. As we were bringing the patient from the operating

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