

him know when they go out on an engagement and when they return. The public then, when a Nurse is wanted, will only have to go to the Registry Office to ascertain what women are disengaged, instead of, as now, having to search Calcutta from Hastings to Bow Bazar. Women whose names are on the Register will be more sure of constant work; but it will be necessary to have some sort of Reference Committee, who will have the power to refuse admission to the Register of notoriously incompetent and untrustworthy Nurses, and to remove names from the Register if found necessary. A small fee from Nurses and employers will cover expenses, in which would be some advertising. The Nurses I have spoken to highly approve of the plan. Kindly let me know your opinion."

Why not, I ask, form a Calcutta branch of the B.N.A., under the rules of the mother office? I commend this to our Indian readers; and we have many.

THE 'Post Card Examinations' instituted by the *Nursing Record*, says our contemporary, the *Daily News*, "are the latest device for stimulating professional zeal among a useful subsidiary order of the medical profession. Fac-similes are published of the post-card answers of the successful candidates, but it does not appear that any precaution is taken to ensure that the answers shall be the unaided result of the respondent's own knowledge. The latest example is from a young lady in Chippenham in reply to the question, 'What are the chief and general symptoms of inflammation?' The answer is, 'Redness, swellings, heat and pain, rise of temperature, lassitude, nausea, rigors succeeded by pains in the head, back, and limbs, loss of appetite, thirst, frequency of pulse, hectic fever, and depression.'"

In my opinion there is not the slightest necessity for any "precautions" whatsoever, as I feel sure that Mr. Editor has quite sufficient confidence in the readers and supporters of this journal, and especially of those who are candidates for these examinations, that he can well afford to take it for granted that no competitor would be so dishonourable as to send in an answer but was her "own unaided effort."

It is certainly a "sign of the times," when we see Boards of Guardians taking an interest in the Nurses employed by them. At the Central London School District meeting last week, reports the *Metropolitan*, "Complaint having been made as to the dull life and sameness of diet imposed upon the Nurses at Hanwell, the Board decided, on the motion of Mr. Lile, to send a suggestion to the House Committee with instructions to purchase a piano not to exceed £35. The diet was declared to be as sufficiently varied as possible.—Mr. Goodwin said the Board were

no doubt aware that many of their Nurses were ladies who were devoting their lives to the Nursing of the sick, and they required better treatment than persons of a lower class.—The Board disagreed with the report of the Ophthalmic and Building Committee, recommending that the Chairman lay the foundation-stone of the new south wall of the school now being built. They decided to allow the Nurses and Assistant Nurses an outdoor uniform of cloak and bonnet not to exceed thirty-six shillings, the samples to be selected by the Committee."

PROBABLY some of my readers will remember that a jaunt through Ireland was described in one of our issues of last year, and the Imperial Hotel, Waterford, under the able superintendence of Mrs. Murray, was alluded to. Mrs. Murray, not content with the already secured excellence of her hostelry, has been having the whole place reconstructed in its sanitary features. These features are so novel and so comprehensive, and so exactly the system that ought to be recognised by all Hospitals and Institutions throughout the kingdom, that I have much pleasure in giving the description in detail from the columns of our contemporary, the *Waterford Standard*.

"THE work possesses many features of novelty. Large drains which were in use have been altogether removed, and new drains upon what is known as 'The Accessible System' have taken their place. We were much struck with the great difference in size between the old drains and the new, and mentioned it to the contractors' representative, who stated that the new drains are just one-fifth of the size of the old ones. He explained that the object of using small-bore drains is to ensure their being thoroughly flushed, and informed us that the drain we were looking at (a pipe of four-inch bore), although apparently small, is capable of carrying off between eight thousand and nine thousand gallons in an hour. 'Small drains,' he said, 'are much less likely to become choked than large ones, for the commonest cause of chokage is the gradual accumulation of solid matter. In our small-bore drains there is no room for accumulation; everything is washed through at once, as the flush of water fills the pipes instead of trickling along the bottom, as it does in large drains.' 'But suppose, by any accident, they did get choked, we have a simple remedy.'

"HE then pointed out a number of small air-tight doors of metal in the surface, and showed us that,

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