

for Benevolent and Pension Fund and other business.

I AGAIN take the liberty of reminding my readers about Mrs. Duyck's case. The sixth application for an annuity of £20 of the British Home for Incurables will be made on Thursday, the 13th of November. Mrs. Duyck has five hundred and four votes to carry forward, and I shall deem it a favour if all my readers will do what they can to assist her.

THE end of the recent Local Government Board inquiry into the wretched piece of business called the "Hope Hospital Scandal" has resulted in the following report:—"The board, after careful consideration of all the circumstances, are clearly of opinion that in the interests of the Infirmary it is essential that Dr. Conry should cease to hold his office as Medical Superintendent, and in a communication they have addressed to him they have requested him to place his resignation in the hands of the Guardians. With regard to Dr. Walker, it was clear, from his own admission in connection with the charge against Dr. Conry, that he showed great want of discretion and judgment in the course which he took in connection with Mayhew and Reineke on the night to which the charge against Dr. Conry refers, and the board consider that it is necessary he also should resign his office."

THE *Metropolitan* of Saturday last informs us that—"In his report to the Guardians, Dr. Lloyd, Medical Superintendent of the Lambeth Infirmary, made some comments upon the Nursing Staff. He pointed out that the Infirmary contained 622 beds, divided unequally. Some floors contained as few as 29 beds, some 62 beds, others 34 beds, and the largest 84 beds. The day staff consisted of eight head Nurses, one Midwife, one male lunatic attendant, and 21 Assistant Nurses. At night the staff consisted of nine night Nurses, one Midwife, and one male lunatic attendant. He suggested that the night Nursing staff should be doubled, and that 10 more Assistant Nurses should be appointed for the day duty. The consideration of the matter was deferred. How long will the matter be deferred, I wonder? I shall have to ask Mr. Editor to "stir up" this board, through the Local Government, as he has "stirred up others" before to much advantage. Something must be radically wrong when the medical officer suggests that the night staff should be *doubled*."

I AM glad to be able to note that Miss M. E. Whear, M.B.N.A., has been appointed Matron

of the new Fever Convalescing Hospital at Gore Farm, Dartford. Miss Whear commenced her training at the Kensington Infirmary in 1881, and two years ago was promoted to the post of Night Superintendent in that Institution, which office she has held until the present time. She carries with her the best wishes of those with whom she has worked.

A VERY useful little brochure, price sixpence, has reached me, entitled "Sea Sickness: Cause, Treatment, and Cure, with a Note on Ship Surgeons," by Thos. Dutton, M.D., published by H. Kimpton, 4, Hanway Street, Oxford Street, W. It is well worth perusal, for it is full of agreeably written and interesting information.

FROM the "Eighteenth Quarterly Letter to the Mary Adelaide Nurses," by "M. Fuller"—which letter, by the way, I consider is much too fulsome in respect to the National Pension Fund for Nurses to be unbiassed—I gather the interesting remarks below.

"How different are our Hospitals and Infirmarys now to what they were in bygone years is seen from a short account that I have lately been reading of the experiences of that good man, John Howard. In the Westminster Hospital the floors are described as being 'sanded and the walls dirty.' It is a further significant fact that a small annual sum was set aside for the destruction of vermin.' He says, 'Whitewashing the Wards is seldom or never practised, and injurious prejudices against washing floors and admitting air are allowed to operate. Bathing, either hot or cold, is scarcely ever used—I suppose because it would give trouble to the attendants.' It is interesting to read what he says of the dietary at St. Thomas's Hospital in those 'dark ages.' 'Full diet was as follows:—Breakfast, milk porridge four days, and water gruel three days; for dinner there was furnished three times a week $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of boiled mutton, and on the two days beef was substituted. On the remaining days, in place of meat, the patient had 4oz. of butter and 6oz. of cheese. For supper there was served up a pint of broth, and on meat days the allowance of bread was 14oz. During the winter a quart of beer was allowed, and, it is added, in summer fruit was provided. There was practically no "tea," as we understand the refreshing and universally-appreciated afternoon refreshment; and how ailing, delicate, fanciful invalids relish *cheese* can be better imagined, perhaps, than described. Turning now to the low diets, we notice that the breakfasts were similar to those cited above; for dinner, on five days 6oz. of Welsh

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