

Jenner's discovery than were furnished by our expedition. Among the Manyema Madis and native followers the epidemic had taken deadly hold, and many a victim had already been tossed into the river weighted with rocks. For this was also a strange necessity we had to resort to, to avoid subsequent exhumation by the natives, whom we discovered to be following our tracks for the purpose of feeding on the dead.

"One of the Zanzibari headmen, while acting as coxswain of a canoe, was so stung by wasps at this camp that he despaired of his life, and insisted that his will should be written, wherein he made his brother, then with us, his sole legatee. I conformed to his wish in a clerklly fashion that pleased him well, but I also administered a ten-grain dose of carbonate of ammonium hypodermically, and told him he should reach Zanzibar in spite of the vicious wasps who had so punished him.

"The next day he was a new man, and boasted that the white man's medicines could cure everything but death."

NURSING ECHOES.

. SPECIAL NOTICE.—*To those of our friends—in districts not already arranged for, whether at home or abroad—who will agree to send us regularly (reaching the office not later than Monday morning, first post) original notes or items of Nursing news, or matters of importance occurring in their districts, we shall be pleased to send in exchange free copies of the Nursing Record every Thursday, and also the binding case for each volume as it appears.*

. *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.*

THE public interest and the professional excitement about the inquiry into the London Hospital scandals grows apace. No paper dares to say very much at present; but Mr. Editor says that most London editors are watching the evidence keenly, and as soon as it is completed there will be quite a journalistic avalanche. He wishes me to keep simply



to facts which have been stated in court; and so I may cull a few, and state them baldly, not enveloped in a cloud of words. From the Matron's evidence it appears that the cost of her services to the London Hospital is as follows:—For salary as Matron, £250; ditto on account of the Nursing Home, £100;

board, lodging, &c. (say), £50; in all, £400 per annum. Salary of Assistant No. 1, £60; ditto of Assistant No. 2, £60; ditto of Assistant No. 3, £30; ditto of Assistant No. 4, £55; board, lodgings, &c., of four Assistants (say), £200; or a total expenditure of more than £800 a year! Not bad this for a Hospital which calls itself "comparatively the poorest in the kingdom." No wonder the Matron stated that she considered it "a very happy Hospital."

THE Matron's holidays are equally liberal. She has, it appears, five or six weeks in the summer, a few days at Christmas, a few days at Easter, and a few days at Whitsuntide, and always from Saturday to Monday—very often, it is well known, from Friday to Tuesday; in fact, it is calculated at the London Hospital that for an aggregate of six months out of twelve she is away from the building. Can this be another reason why it is such "a very happy Hospital"?

THE following question and answer read like a gigantic joke after this: "Is it your duty to go round the Wards every day?" "It would be impossible to do it every day." Lady Superintendents of Nurses throughout the unhappy Hospitals of England, hearken unto this!

THEIR lordships were much exercised as to the precise difference which exists between "dispensing with the services of a Probationer," "terminating her engagement," and "dismissing her." In this very happy Hospital, be it known, all these plans are in existence. If the Matron does not like a Probationer she can instantly "dispense with her services." If a Sister does not like a Probationer the Matron can instantly "terminate her engagement." But no one is ever "dismissed" except by the House Committee—in strict accordance with the bye-laws of the Hospital.

THE Lords, with all their judicial fairness, however, did show the dislike with which they regarded the private reports kept by the Matron concerning former Probationers. Our representative at the inquiry reports that a gentleman present said that the extracts from the Hospital minute book were very "peculiar" as a report from a public official; and Lord Cathcart, it seems, said that he was surprised to find such "gossipy statements" in the Matron's official register. But surely a Matron who is so much away from her duties *must* be entirely dependent on hearsay and gossip for knowledge of her subordinates.

THE late Chairman of the Hospital, Mr. Carr-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)