

Everyone will agree that a piano is an indispensable addition to the furniture of a Nurses' Home, and we are pleased to note that the Guardians of the Belfast Infirmary propose to procure one. Music and, odd as it may seem, dancing, are delightful forms of relaxation for tired nurses—to see them trip the light fantastic toe with enjoyment after an arduous day's work is really surprising.

We regret to learn that Miss Alt and her friend Mrs. Schneider, the ladies who rendered such heroic service to the cholera patients at San Stefano, are now in straitened circumstances, and have, in addition, suffered severely from attacks of cholera. A circular has been issued by Lady Lowther and others in Constantinople stating that it is proposed to raise a fund for their benefit. Contributions should be sent to Lady Lowther at the British Embassy, Constantinople. It will be remembered that as no nurses were forthcoming, these ladies attended the patients with the utmost devotion, and, in spite of having attained an age when most nurses have retired from active work, Miss Alt was not only unceasing in her devoted labours, but spent her money freely for the patients.

Sisters Warriner and Obee, R.N.S., are hard at work at the San Stefano Hospital, near Constantinople. We gather from their interesting letters that arrangements are very primitive, but that a move is to be made into a new hospital.

In every war the amateur lady worker is a trial to the trained woman, however good her intentions may be, and, as usual, she has found her way to the Balkans and Turkey.

Next week we shall publish a most interesting account of the Red Crescent Hospital at Scutari, Constantinople, by Sister K. H. Wheatley.

## IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

### COURSE OF LECTURES FOR 1913.

Five lectures on the following interesting subjects have been arranged by the Irish Nurses' Association, and will be held at 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin:—

"The Prevention and Cure of Consumption," by Dr. Crofton; "The Signs and Symptoms," by Dr. William Taylor; "Massage in Diseases of the Nervous System," by Dr. Moorhead; "Gynæcological Nursing," by Dr. Gibson; "Seemingly Trivial Symptoms which may indicate Serious Disease," by Dr. Maunsell.

## REFLECTIONS

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The long-felt necessity of providing a "Night-off" once a month, for the Night Nurses has just been sanctioned by the Council of Charing Cross Hospital. An additional Nurse is to be added to the Nursing Staff who will do this Relief Work—and also have charge of the sick Nurses. A small salary is to be given to the first-year Probationers, when they sign the agreement of training. Hitherto the Probationers have received no salary during the first year of training.

The Central Poor Law Conference will be opened by the Lord Mayor, in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall, on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 11th and 12th, Mr. Morton Latham presiding.

Major Leonard Darwin and Miss Fortey (Leicester) will read papers on the Mental Deficiency Bill, from a eugenic aspect; and the Rev. P. S. G. Propert will treat of the administrative side of the measure. This subject will occupy the first day's sitting.

Sir William Chance will, on the second day, read a paper on vagrancy; and Mr. J. M. Rendel (Kensington) and Miss Henry (Newbury) will deal with the treatment and training of Poor Law children.

The Council of the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., have accepted an invitation from the Exeter City Council to hold their 28th Congress and Health Exhibition in the city, from July 7th-12th prox., under the presidency of the Right Hon. Earl Fortescue. The Health Exhibition will contain all the newest forms of Sanitary Apparatus—Municipal and Domestic.

The next examinations held by the Institute in School Hygiene, including Elementary Physiology, and for Women Health Visitors and School Nurses, will be held in London on May 2nd and 3rd.

A course of six lectures on the properties of milk, illustrated by experiments and lantern slides, will be given by Dr. Harden, F.R.S. (of the Lister Institute) on Thursday evenings, beginning on February 6th, at 7.30 p.m., at the South Western Polytechnic Institute, Manresa Road, Chelsea. Fee 2s. 6d. Each lecture will be followed by work in the chemical laboratory.

After February 13th non-pulmonary tuberculosis is to be a compulsorily notifiable disease.

The Local Government Board has approved the proposals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board in regard to the treatment of tuberculosis patients under the Insurance Act at the Downs School. For the future the institution will be called the Darenth Sanatorium.

The Board of Management of the Wigan Infirmary, at which 48,000 out-patients were treated

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