

what was known as Gathorne Hardy's Act, than which no more merciful Act of Parliament was ever passed, should be thoroughly and consistently carried out. The Infirmaries were periodically visited by Poor Law Inspectors in their customary perfunctory manner, and they were managed by gentlemen selected from the various Boards of Guardians, who were called managers; and this, to his thinking, was an unwise procedure which led to abuses. He would like to see these Infirmaries managed and controlled by the London County Council, and ladies should have a share in the management. All classes of diseases, with the exception of infectious diseases and diseases of the mind, were treated in Poor Law Infirmaries, and those who were suffering from lung diseases, cancer, consumption, or paralysis, who were admitted into Hospitals only for a short time, found in these Institutions a home for life where they were visited once or twice a day by the Medical Superintendent and treated with every consideration. It was certainly reprehensible that such rich fields for the investigation of almost every known form of disease should be left barren of teaching results to the medical and scientific world, whereas on the Continent similar Institutions, such as the Salpêtrière in Paris, afforded valuable evidence of their scientific work."

I DON'T wish to contradict in any way Dr. Stretch Dowse's statements, but I do think he has put rather too rosy a complexion upon the Nursing arrangements in our London Poor Law Infirmaries. Much has been done, and more will be done, as the energetic Miss Louisa Twining and Miss Wilson will bear me out, but a very great deal yet remains to be accomplished before we can with absolute veracity declare that such institutions "are perfect Hospitals in every sense of the word." I should have liked Dr. Stretch Dowse's evidence much better, and I do like it as it is, if he had left out the allusion to "pretty faces and good figures." I however join hands with him especially in wishing that ladies should be permitted to have a share in the committees of management.

I AM asked, which I have much pleasure in doing, to state that the Irish Distressed Ladies' Fund will have held on its behalf on the 28th and 29th of the present month a "sale of work" at Devonshire House, by the kind permission of His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, in aid of those ladies of Ireland who, through causes beyond their own control, are now in great distress. The sale will be opened by Her Royal Highness the

Princess Louise, on Tuesday the 28th, at three o'clock p.m.

THE New York *Medical Record* states that "a room for Sick Nurses, called the 'Mrs. Harry Ingersoll Endowed Room of the Nurses' Beneficial Association' has been established in the new Polyclinic Hospital in Philadelphia. The room has been endowed by the lady whose name it bears, and was opened for inspection and use on Thursday, April 2, on the occasion of the formal opening of the new building for polyclinic." An example that might with much advantage be imitated in this country by many of our wealthy and public-spirited ladies.

IN the face of recent statements, it is with much pleasure that I give publication to the following: "Sir William Savory, on behalf of all the members of the Medical and Surgical Staff of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, has handed to the almoners the following memorandum: 'In face of statements publicly made of the general insanitary condition of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, we, the Physicians and Surgeons of the Hospital, each of us answering for the cases under his own care, consider it our duty to assure the Governors that statements to that effect are not justified by existing evidence. Each of us is almost daily in the Wards, and if insanitary conditions existed, which acted prejudicially on the patients, we could not fail to observe them by their effects on those under treatment, and especially in the Surgical Wards, on those submitted to operations; but such unfavourable results do not occur. With regard to the occurrence of diphtheria in some of the patients admitted for other diseases, and in certain members of the Nursing Staff, a searching investigation by a committee of the Medical Staff has failed to find any evidence or reason for supposing that such occurrence was due to defective sanitary arrangements.'"

I HAVE been asked to give space to the following letter:—"Central London Throat and Ear Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, W.C.—Sir,—In the current number of the *Nursing Record*, I observe that you allude to a visit of the Empress Frederick to the 'Throat and Ear Hospital,' Golden Square. Allow me to say that that Hospital is known as the 'Throat Hospital.' The Throat and Ear Hospital is that of which I have the honour to be the secretary, and the full title of which is as above. I am, yours faithfully,—RICHARD KERSHAW." S. G.

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