

advised the Nurses to return to civilised lands with him, but with feminine enterprise and Nursing dislike to giving up their case, they declined the offer. So the Bishop travelled back to the region of first-class railway carriages, and the Nurses and the expedition have disappeared into the unknown land. After the habit of the English race, they probably expect that pluck and good luck will bring them safely back again, but are prepared to run the risk of leaving their bones in the middle of a desert if only there is a chance of finding gold in that desert, and especially if nobody else has ever ventured to look for it there before.

S. G.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

A QUARTERLY Court of Governors of the London Hospital, was held on September 2. Sir Edmund Hay Currie took the chair, and there was a considerable number of ladies and gentlemen present, including Mr. J. G. Wainwright, Mr. Henry C. Burdett, Mr. Carr-Gomm, Miss Rosalind Paget, and also several children.

The notice convening the meeting and the minutes of the preceding Court, were read, and the latter duly confirmed. The Report of the House Committee for the past three months was read by the Secretary, in the course of which it was stated that during a recent storm the conductor on the Grocer's Wing was struck by lightning; that though several Nurses had been ill, none had died; and that the Matron had received leave of absence for a month.

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing the adoption of the Report, referred to the death of Dr. Sutton, and to the facts that the English Hospital at Hong-Kong had asked the Committee to send out some Nurses, and that two of their former Nurses having served in the Hospital at Adelaide with credit, that Institution had asked for two more London Hospital Nurses. This, the Chairman considered, showed what a high reputation the Hospital had all over the world. (Applause.) He called attention to this because they had had a lot of trouble, although investigation, he thought, had shown that everything was *couleur de rose* at the London Hospital.

CAPTAIN DAVIS seconded the adoption of the Report.

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK said that he desired first to endorse and echo the eloquent remarks made by the Chairman respecting Dr. Sutton. Old students of the Hospital were devoted to him, and felt that it would be difficult if not impossible to replace him. Dr. Bedford Fenwick expressed his regret that the Committee had taken no steps yet to increase the holidays of the Nurses. The matter had been before these Courts for a whole year. At the inquiry by the Lords' Committee, a Senior Physician and a Senior Surgeon of the Hospital both expressed their conviction that the holidays were too short. It could not be contended that three short holidays of one week each, in two years, was sufficient rest to give to women who had such hard and responsible work to perform. Yet the Committee had done nothing to remedy this. They said it was a question of expense, and of want of accommodation, but the argument was unfeeling, because they made a large sum of money every year out of their Nurses, and they sent out Probationers as Private Nurses. If they kept these women—as they ought to be—in the Hospital, they would be able then to spare every Nurse in turn for three weeks' holiday. Other Hospitals were giving their Nurses the rest they so greatly needed, and many Governors felt with him that the London Hospital must do likewise. In any case he objected to this great Institution

being kept in the rear of progress when it should be in the van. (Hear, hear.) Then there was another serious matter which the Committee must face. The Hospital advertises that it sends out thoroughly Trained Nurses to private cases. It actually sends out Probationers who are only learning their profession. He maintained that, by every principle of justice and right, the Committee should either send out only women whom they had been able to certificate as "thoroughly trained," or that they should honestly state to the public that they sent out mere pupils. They clearly did not know how serious the matter was, that, in fact, it might be a case of life and death to a patient to have an inexperienced Nurse to carry out the Doctor's orders, because when medical men sent to a great Hospital for a thoroughly Trained Nurse they expected to get one, and, in that belief, trusted her with much responsibility. He complimented the Committee upon the great improvements in the Hospital made by the new buildings and the increased efficiency which they had made possible. With the immense amount of work to be done in the Receiving Room, he knew by personal experience, ten years ago, that the space was far too cramped. Finally, he strongly objected to the Committee making statements about the Royal British Nurses' Association which were entirely inaccurate. They had petitioned the Board of Trade to refuse the simple request of the Association to be incorporated without the addition of the word "Limited" to its name. The petition of the Committee had just been made public, and it was found that, amongst other strange misstatements, they made the following statement to the Board of Trade in reference to the persons who were eligible for Registration as Trained Nurses by the Nurses' Association: "A lady's-maid of good character, who had been for three years in attendance upon a bed-ridden mistress, might, on obtaining a satisfactory testimonial from a medical man, be placed on the Register. The same might be said of a valet in like manner engaged. These individuals might be placed upon the same footing as a highly-trained Hospital Nurse who had passed through a tedious and strict curriculum, and who had satisfied a severe test as to her fitness." How entirely untrue this statement is, was proved by the very first Regulation for Registration, issued more than eighteen months ago, which reads as follows: "Applicants for Registration must produce proof that they have been engaged for three years, in work, in Hospitals or Infirmarys, of which not less than twelve months must have been spent in a recognised General Hospital containing at least forty beds." He felt confident the Committee had been entirely misled in this matter, and would agree with him in thinking that it reflected no credit on the Hospital that such grave inaccuracies should have been officially stated by them, about an outside body, to the head of a Government Department.

Sir EDMUND CURRIE said that the Nurses' holidays was a matter of the greatest importance, but the difficulties in the way of increasing them were very great indeed. He was told that increased accommodation would be needed, because more Nurses would have to be engaged. As to the Nurses who were sent out, he wished to say that, amongst the large number, they had had no complaint whatever, and they had had very grateful letters about their Nurses.

The Report was then unanimously adopted, and the Meeting was made Special. Dr. F. J. SMITH was elected an Assistant Physician in the place of Dr. TURNER, promoted to be Physician. An expenditure of £15,800 was sanctioned for the reconstruction of a street on the Hospital property. Mr. E. J. COOPE and FATHER GORMAN were elected Members of the House Committee. The executors of the late Mr. J. SMITH and of the late Miss JAMES were elected Life Governors. A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the business.

DISPOSE OF THE DEAD AS NATURE DIRECTS.—Everyone interested in the reform of funeral abuses should read the brochure published by the London Necropolis Company. It can be had gratis of the Secretary, 2, Lancaster Place, Strand, or 188, Westminster Bridge Road.

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