

THE yearly expenses of the Institution amount to about £2,000, and the Nurses' earnings, &c., amount to about £1,600 a year. And what does Lincoln do to assist its sick poor and artisans in their hour of need? It subscribes—or gives in solitary sums—the magnificent amount of £250 a year. Oh! most generous prodigality! A great and wealthy cathedral city produces in one year £250, to prove the fervent Christianity of its clerics and their flocks. They read in their churches the Divine command to "Visit the sick," but placidly depute their Nurses to carry it out—at their own expense. Because, in plain English, the Lincoln Nurses have to pay for the district Nursing of the poor. The harm is wrought, doubtless, by mere want of thought, and the Bishop and the Dean, now the matter is brought to their notice, will probably take it up with their usual energy and success, and bring it to the notice of their brethren. I shall refer to the matter again shortly, as soon as I hear what is going to be done to remove the stigma from Lincoln of falling behind other English towns. Its citizens cannot have heard what the Queen has done for the sick poor in this important matter, and how all parts of the country have followed Her Majesty's example.

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As I reported a fortnight ago, the honour of the Royal Red Cross has recently, and most deservedly, been conferred on five ladies, who, by their unselfish devotion and power of organisation, have won the highest regard and renown in our great Indian Empire. The pioneer of a reformed and systematic order of Nursing for "Home and Hospital" has been the wife of Sir Frederick Roberts. In the face of many difficulties and hindrances, apparently insurmountable, Lady Roberts steadily advocated, and then instituted, a system of improved Hospital management, the result of which is daily spreading and deepening. Mrs. Damant heroically endured the most bitter and deadly privation during the mutinous rising among the Nagas in 1879, where her life was in the greatest danger, and her husband fell a victim to the treacherous insurgents, who arranged everything with such subtlety that he rode away from his bungalow, at Kohima, to his death without the least suspicion. The three ladies Miss Loch, Miss Lickfold, and Miss Welchman, who are actively engaged in Nursing work, spent several months last year among the wounded soldiers of the Black Mountain Expedition. They there gained universal gratitude and esteem for their skill, devotion, and courage, in daily risk of

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.

death and injury. Miss Loch was for some years a Sister at St. Bartholomew's Hospital; and Miss Lickfold and Miss Welchman were trained in the same Hospital. My readers will find a longer and interesting account, with the portraits of these ladies, in our contemporary, the *Queen*, of November 7th.

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IN connection with the Private Home for Patients, at Woodside, Plymouth, a very useful fund, to be known as the "Poor Gentlefolks' Fund," has been started. Its object is to assist sick persons above the class usually admissible to a public Hospital. The subscription lists have made an excellent beginning. The Home is doing good work, having been organised under medical supervision, and in a most liberal manner. Miss Turner, the new Lady Superintendent, who succeeds Miss Champion, was lately certificated at the London Hospital, and was a very popular member of the Nursing Staff.

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NEW scandals in connection with the Nursing Department of the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, continue to be made public. Miss Helen Steel, a Nurse, writes to the *Mail* "that the mustard used in the Nurses' dining-hall is mixed in a spittoon," and "pudding always sent to table in an enamelled wash-hand basin." We commend the refinement of these table decorations to the consideration of Messrs. Hugh Brown and W. McEwen when next they visit the Institution.

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MISS JESSIE MUIR GAFF, another Nurse, writes, with sympathy, concerning the "corpse controversy." She says: "I quite fail to see why the Nurses are not concerned at the presence of the dead bodies of patients in the Wards all night. I have seen great harm done to nervous and cardiac cases through being compelled to lie for a number of hours within a short distance of a corpse. A patient watches the person in the next bed dying—perhaps for a day or more. The end comes some time after nine p.m. All night the body lies within two feet of the living patient, who, if a nervous woman or a child, works herself into a state of excitement, undoing to a great extent the good accruing from residence in the Hospital. Often have I been unable to leave the Ward even to go into the Ward kitchen, as the patients were in such an excited state owing to the presence of a corpse; and always, when a dead body was over-night in the Ward, I have been compelled to keep gases partly raised. No one would like to lie all night and try to sleep with a corpse within two feet of one, even separated by a cloth-covered screen. I think that the poor patients entrusted to our care should have the same consideration as we would like."

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