

AT the twenty-first annual meeting of the Birmingham District Nursing Society, which was held at the Council House, the MAYOR proposed that an influenza fund should be started, in order that, since the Hospitals had decided not to admit influenza patients, they might be carefully nursed in their own homes. It was unanimously resolved to increase the staff of Nurses for this emergency, and a fund was inaugurated on the spot.

DURING the past week the Leeds Hospital for Women and Children, the Meanwood Convalescent Home for Children, and the Cookridge Convalescent Hospital have held meetings. In the first-mentioned Institution, although there are only twenty-seven beds, there had been 273 in-patients treated, whilst the out-patients numbered 5,178. A new Matron, has been appointed in the person of Miss EDITH SUTCLIFFE, M.R.B.N.A., (late of the Women's Hospital, Soho), Miss WILKINSON, the previous Matron, having been appointed Superintendent of Nurses in the North Staffordshire Infirmary. The Cookridge Convalescent Home is now in the twenty-third year of its existence, and there is a proposal to erect in connection with it a new Hospital for Women, to meet the demands made upon the accommodation. Last summer one hundred and twenty-five patients were desirous of admission at a time when all the beds were full.

"In his address to the Electors of Battersea," says the *Evening News and Post*, "Mr. JOHN BURNS, candidate for re-election to the County Council, advocates the control of the Hospitals by the Council. Recent disclosures respecting the management of some of these Institutions give point to Mr. BURNS's suggestion. Certainly there are many who will think that, in the case of the London Hospital, at least, the proposed change might be a distinct benefit to the public." I hope our readers will notice how one important paper after another is now expressing the views which we have for long ventilated—the crying evils and necessity for reforms at the London Hospital.

ACCORDING to the *British Medical Journal*, the President of the Local Government Board, after consultation with his official Medical advisers, has decided, in lieu of obtaining a Royal Commission, to institute a special inquiry—under the direction of the Medical Department of the Board, and with the aid of its officers and of outside

scientific experts—into the clinical character and the pathological nature of influenza.

INFLUENZA is still prevalent at Girton College, and large numbers of the lady students are laid up with it; but so far no serious cases have occurred. Strict quarantine is maintained, and on all the doors of the victims' rooms are little cards announcing that the occupant is suffering from influenza—"No Visitors." On one door I saw an addition to this card, which proved that the student who wrote it was not suffering very severely. It ran thus: "Thanks awfully for your cake, which I much enjoyed. Please send me another!" Owing to the unusual amount of illness in Cambridge and its neighbourhood, it is almost impossible to procure a Nurse on any terms; so that the learned Professors and Lecturers of Girton must perforce lay aside their 'ologies and academic dignity, and come down to the feminine level of poultices and broths.

AMONG the stimulants prescribed in influenza, coffee occupies a prominent place. And indeed, for convalescents from most illnesses, a cup of good coffee forms an excellent pick-me-up. It needs careful making and should never be allowed to stand. The ground coffee should be thoroughly heated in a closed jar or tin, and if the patient for whom it is intended needs a nourishing drink boiling milk should be used instead of water. Many people can take milk in this way who cannot digest it in any other form. If coffee made with milk be too heavy, use water and add a little cream afterwards. The Norwegians always use *boiled* cream with their coffee, and certainly one never tastes the beverage to such perfection as in Norway. It far excels the coffee of Paris, and its superiority is said to be caused by the simple little fact of boiling the cream.

WHILE on the subject of sick cookery, I would suggest as a useful novelty the favourite American "milk toast." It is a dainty little dish, and very easy to prepare. A rather thick slice of bread, with crust cut off, should be toasted and buttered on either side; put into a soup plate, and pour over it some slightly-thickened milk. Use pepper and salt to season, or, if preferred, some sifted sugar. It forms a delicate and light luncheon or supper. A "gravy toast" is another popular little dish in the States. In this case the buttered toast is laid in a soup plate, and the juice is squeezed from an underdone piece of steak right over it. A lemon squeezer serves the purpose admirably, and this "gravy toast" will be found to be a very appetising and nourishing little meal for an invalid or a convalescent.

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 133, Waterloo Bridge Road.

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