

and donations of the benefactors to the Hospital, and in its early days these took the place of our modern but less dignified newspaper announcements of same.

We now enter the right corridor; the Matron opens a door on the left, and shows us into the Board Room, an apartment of large dimensions, much as other Hospital Board Rooms are, only it is a portrait gallery as well, and for that reason a brief description of it may not be uninteresting to my readers.

The walls are covered by life-sized portraits in massive gilt frames, full length or half length, of men either eminent for their professional skill, munificent liberality, or some lay service to the Institution. Amongst the artists are the names of two P.R.A.s, and one R.A., the two former being Sir Joshua Reynolds and Sir Francis Grant respectively and Mr. T. Phillips. As we gaze upon these interesting mementoes of past worthies, we cannot help feeling that if there be *many* portraits there is only *one* picture, the most treasured of all—the fine historic painting of Dr. John Ash, the founder of the Hospital, by Sir Joshua Reynolds, and to go over the "General" and *not* see the "Reynolds," would be like going to Warwick Castle and *not* seeing the Warwick Vase. I will attempt a pen-and-ink sketch of it on paper for the benefit of those of my readers who have not seen this splendid picture.

The worthy Doctor is seated in his chair close to his table (covered by a cloth that might have been put on yesterday, so fresh are the colours of it), on which are placed his inkstand and papers. His left hand rests on the table, and on the little finger of the left hand he wears a massive ring. The Doctor is attired "in his habit as he lived"—black velvet suit, knee breeches, black silk stockings, and buckled shoes, lace ruffles and cravat, and, of course, the wig of the period. Over his shoulder, is

placed his scarlet academic gown of a Doctor of Medicine, and the whole figure has that air of refinement and repose that the brush of Reynolds never failed to impart. In his right hand the Doctor holds a scroll, on which is drawn a plan of the future Hospital—the "General," as it was to be called—and in the background of the picture is a sketch of what Hutton calls a "sumptuous house" that the Doctor himself had built upon a large plot of land obtained on lease from Sir Lisle Holte, of Aston Hall. How much of history lies in these brief lines! The erstwhile pleasant homestead exists only in name. Ashstead, the historic home of the Holtes, knows them no more; the very structure so dear to the heart of its founder is destined to changes more momentous than them all.

As well as pictures, the Board Room is adorned by busts, placed upon pedestals in various parts of the room, of past worthies who, in one way or another, have shed lustre upon the Institution. But our art criticisms must now come to an end, for the Nurses have begun to cut the bread-and-butter for the medical afternoon tea, always served to them in the state room of the Hospital, and partaken of in the silent company of their august predecessors, immortalised by brush or chisel, with varying degrees of excellence, around them.

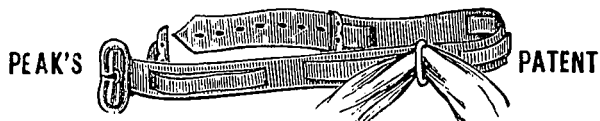
Our brief (but to my readers I trust not altogether uninteresting) visit to the foremost of our Midland Hospitals is ended, and we have only to take leave of and thank our kind hostess, Miss Busby, who has given us so large a measure of her time and the information without which these papers could not have been written.

We desire to call the attention of our readers to the Special Summer Number, published on Thursday, July 7th.

THE DEAR BABIES

Saved from many a Fall from Perambulator, Cot, Mail Cart, &c., by Wearing the

"DORIS" SAFETY BELT



Of great use in Nursing, and Teaching to Walk. An incalculable Boon to Anxious Mothers.

Highly recommended by Dr. F. R. ALLINSON, L.R.C.P.

Price, with Cot Attachment, 2/9 post free, from the Patentee,

H. M. PEAK,
7, WESLEY STREET & 107, BOLD STREET, LIVERPOOL.
DESCRIPTIONS SENT WITH BELT.

THE NURSING DIRECTORY

For 1892

IS NOW READY.

It contains a mass of useful and reliable information for all those interested in, or associated with, Nursing Work.

Price 5s. Post Free.

THE RECORD PRESS, LIMITED,
376, Strand, London, W.C.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

Holborn Bars, London, E.C.

FOUNDED 1848.

Invested Funds £14,000,000.

BINDING CASES

For the Half-yearly Volumes of

The Nursing Record

May be had, price 2s. each, post free, of the Publishers.

The Favourite Confection. — World-wide Sale.

SKUSE'S HERBAL TABLETS.

Prepared from the Finest Aniseed, Horehound, Coltsfoot, Marshmallow, and other choice Herbs. Sold everywhere in 3-oz. Tins, 8d. Three Tins, post free, 1s.

Works: 106, Praed Street, W.



[previous page](#)

[next page](#)