

ANOTHER County Hospital is advertising this week for a Matron, namely the Bedford General Infirmary. The Hospital contains 100 beds, and the salary given is £70 per annum. This appointment is announced amongst the "Medical Vacancies" of the week in the *British Medical Journal*. "A straw shows which way the wind blows."

\* \* \*

THE Countess LI—wife of the famous Viceroy LI-HUNG CHANG—who died the other day at her palace in Tientsin, played an important part in the spread of Western ideas, especially as regards medical science, in the north of China. When she was ill, years ago, she was attended by an English doctor, and, on her recovery, was so gratified at what had been done for her that she built a large hospital, and maintained it at her own cost, for the benefit of the Chinese in Tientsin. She was attended in her last illness by an American lady doctor, as well as by an English physician.

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THE *Pall Mall Gazette* says the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes has commenced. The Assumption Fathers, who organize these monster pilgrimages, have arranged for 13 special trains to Lourdes from Paris, and for two from Orleans, Poitiers, &c. Each

of the trains has its flag of a particular colour, which is hoisted over the carriage of the committee in charge. Everything connected with the train—such as prospectuses, badges, ribbons, &c.—is of the same colour as the the flag. The sick persons who seek a miraculous cure at Notre Dame de Lourdes wear a card attached to the button-hole of their coat or on their dress, the simple pilgrims having a little red cross suspended round their necks. Those trains go at a very slow speed, not exceeding that of an ordinary luggage train, and the journey is rendered yet more tedious and long by the trains being constantly shunted into sidings to allow expresses to pass. The railway companies do not guarantee the arrival of the trains at the hours indicated on the prospectuses. The organizers of these pilgrimages contract with the railway companies for so many trains, and then sell the tickets to the pilgrims at a greatly reduced rate, only just high enough to cover expenses. The railway carriages are transformed in many instances into visitable Hospitals. The benches are covered with blankets, and sometimes even with mattresses, on which the sick are laid. Among the pilgrims are to be found persons suffering from almost every chronic or incurable disease. Some of the pilgrims are deaf and dumb, others blind, some crippled, and others, again, even insane. It is needless to say

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