

Not very long ago—in fact, at the time of the South African war—a lady remarked to a friend: "I had to go to the ——— Infirmary the other day to inquire about a soldier's wife, and, do you know, the doctor there was quite a gentleman, just like a doctor in the West End!"

She was not aware that the medical superintendent referred to was well known to her friend.—Believe me, Sir, yours faithfully,

THE "GENTLEMAN" IN QUESTION.

The Paddington Infirmary System.

To the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.

SIR,—Seeing Dr. Stewart's letter of Paddington Infirmary, I think his system very good of keeping records and notes of patients. I beg to state that I was trained in a large London infirmary, and have also been sister and midwife in two others, and find that they still adhere to the old bed-cards and do not get past notes.

In one case I was given a case-book and asked by the medical superintendent to take notes of all accident cases. But in my training school we had the old notes when the patient came in a second time. I think myself that they are very brief, and also that in some infirmaries the lack of surgical training is greatly to be lamented.—Yours faithfully,

A. SMITH.

20 Gordon Place, High Street, Kensington.

February 14.

The Telephone in Medical Practice.

To the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.

SIR,—The other day our matron was rung up on the telephone by a medical man, who said that he was about to engage a nurse who had recently left our hospital. He wanted to know if the nurse's character was satisfactory, and he asked a number of other questions concerning her. Our matron immediately told him that she could give him no information on the telephone with regard to a nurse's personal character.

The medical man was very indignant, and said that he would at once "report" our matron's conduct to the board of management. Whereupon our matron told him that he could do just what he liked, and that she hoped he would not trouble her again but address all his inquiries to the board of management. It seems absurd that any medical man should expect a matron to answer confidential inquiries over the telephone.

How was the matron to know that the medical man who was said to be speaking over the telephone was really the person he said he was? Needless to say, no "report" has yet reached the board of management about the matron's incivility. Should it do so, the medical man will sustain a further shock to his dignity.—Yours faithfully,

A HOSPITAL SECRETARY.

Personalia.

MR. WILLIAM FRY, the Dublin solicitor who took an active part in the conversion of Dublin Castle into a hospital, received the honour of knighthood from Lord Aberdeen before the Viceroy's farewell reception at Dublin Castle last Saturday.

The position of Chief Clerk at the Hampstead General and North-West London Hospital has been filled by the appointment of Mr. A. J. Parker, formerly of the Samaritan Hospital and the East London Hospital for Children.

Ancoats Hospital and the War.

WHEN war was declared Ancoats Hospital was faced with very grave difficulties. Out of the honorary medical and surgical staff three were called up for active service. Captain W. R. Douglas, F.R.C.S., senior honorary surgeon, left for Egypt with the Lancashire Territorials, and is now stationed at Alexandria as surgeon to the military hospital there. For some time after his arrival he was attached to the Suez Canal Defence Force stationed at Ismailia, and has recently been appointed examiner in surgery to the Egyptian Government for the State examination in medicine. Lieutenant John Morley, F.R.C.S., honorary surgeon to Ancoats Hospital, also left for Egypt with the Lancashire Territorials, and is now surgeon to the military hospital at Khartoum. Lieutenant John Ward, assistant physician to the hospital, left immediately on the outbreak of hostilities, and is looking after the "Boys" stationed at Heliopolis, near Cairo. From the resident staff, Drs. Marshall and Whitehead received commissions in the Territorials, and are now doing their duty to the country by keeping the soldiers training at Southport in an efficient condition. Lieutenant Bedale, late house surgeon, is now in full charge of the military hospital at Cyprus, and is no doubt profiting by the experience gained while at Ancoats Hospital in the treatment of the 20,000 accident cases which pass through this hospital per annum. Dr. F. B. Smith, who was appointed house surgeon on the departure of Dr. Bedale, has recently received his commission, and is now also with the Territorials at present training at Southport. These doctors, having answered their country's call, left Ancoats Hospital in a very difficult position, especially as the civil population continued to apply for treatment in as large numbers as ever. The present honorary staff consists of Captain D. E. Core, physician; Dr. C. E. Lea, physician; Mr. Harry Platt, F.R.C.S., M.S., surgeon; Mr. Gilbert Warburton, F.R.C.S., surgeon; Captain W. J. S. Bythell, in charge of the X-ray Department; while the resident staff include Mr. J. R. Slack, house surgeon; Dr. Booth, house physician; Mr. Brook; and Mr. Christopher. At the commencement of the war also six sisters, who were Territorial nurses, were called up to attend to the soldiers at the military hospitals to which their unit was attached, and since then three more nurses and sisters have left to nurse the wounded. In November last the committee placed at the disposal of the military authorities twenty beds at the hospital at Mill Street, and thirty-one beds at the Convalescent Home at Alderley Edge, and up to the end of January 127 wounded soldiers have been admitted.

Medical Appointments.

DR. E. H. HICKS, one of the two medical representatives of the Board of Governors of the Leicester Royal Infirmary representing the Leicestershire and Rutland Branch of the British Medical Association, has been appointed by the British Red Cross Society to the Molassis Hospital, near Boulogne (typhoid fever). Dr. Hicks graduated B.A. Camb. in 1880, and qualified L.S.A. in 1886, and M.R.C.S. Eng. a year later. He has had considerable experience of medical practice abroad, having been medical officer to the British and United States Legations at Bagola, South America. He has contributed several papers on leprosy to the medical journals.