

already stated, now admitted to St. Thomas' Hospital upon payment only of the cost of their maintenance during their year of training. These candidates are supposed to enter with a view of ultimately taking superior positions in public hospitals and infirmaries. These lady probationers—whose ages should not be less than from twenty-six to thirty-six years—receive instructions from the medical instructor and the hospital “sisters” or chief nurses in the wards, and serve as assistant-nurses during their year of probation. The lady superintendent of the Nightingale Institution at St. Thomas' Hospital is at all times accessible to written inquiry, and to personal visits on Tuesday and Friday between ten and twelve o'clock. It is difficult to imagine an occupation for our daughters and sisters more entirely in harmony with the character of a true woman, or more beneficent in its object, than that of tending their afflicted fellow creatures.—*Public Health.*

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DR. BATTY TUKE ON INSANITY.

On Friday last, Dr. Batty Tuke delivered his second lecture on Insanity, in the hall of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh. After some introductory remarks, in the course of which he reiterated, as the general text of his lectures, the definition of insanity as a morbid condition of the brain, resulting from defective formation or altered nutrition in its substance, induced by local or general morbid processes, Dr. Tuke went on to speak of idiocy, which, he said, was the insanity of non-development. The psychical symptoms of this form of insanity were stated to be imperfect development of the intellectual and moral faculties. It had been subdivided into intellectual and moral idiocy; but a case of pure intellectual idiocy or pure moral idiocy was never found; it was a matter of degree, and the differentiation simply depended on which of the faculties was most in abeyance. It was comparatively seldom in these days of lunatic-asylums that the intellectual idiot came under the cognisance of the law as an accused person; and, when he did so, the case did not often present much difficulty. The cases in which the medico-legal difficulty arose were those where there was non-development of the moral faculties, where the intellect appeared to be in some respects not much below the average, and where the person was able to ful-