

The Institution consists of a President, Council, Chaplain, a Lady Superior, and Sisters. It is at the house in Norfolk street that all matters relating to the general concerns of St. John's House are conducted. Here the Lady Superior resides with such sisters as are required for the works carried on more immediately in the House. The staff of nurses for private families also reside here. Services for the nurses are held in the chapel of the House.

The Lady Superior is at the head of the community, and is intrusted with the supervision of all the works undertaken by St. John's House. Of sisters, there are more classes than one: they who are able to devote all their time to the Institution, and they who can only devote a certain portion of the year. There are also Lady Associates, who by their outside influence can further the interests of the Institution. With rare exceptions, no one can become a sister of any class without having first been trained as a lady pupil.

The Council of St. John's House undertake the nursing of certain hospitals under special agreements with the managing boards. The domestics of the hospital, as well as the cooking and washing departments, are also in certain cases placed by the authorities under St. John's House. The Lady Superior places one of the Sisterhood in the hospital as Sister in charge, who is at the head of the nursing establishment there. Associated with and subordinate to her, are other sisters, who share between them the several wards and the domestic management, superintending the work of nursing and of training nurses. All the members of St. John's House, engaged in the hospital, remain subject to the sole authority of the Sister in charge and of the Lady Superior. In all medical and nursing matters, the sisters and nurses carry out the instructions of the medical staff, and act in strict subordination to them.

The nurses in training at hospitals are called Probationer Nurses, and live at the Mother House, Norfolk street, during their year of training, working daily at the Hospitals and returning to St. John's in the evening.

Families desiring the services of these nurses are obliged to pay a guinea per week, as also the travelling expenses going and coming. In fevers and infectious cases, the charge is one and half a guineas; Small-Pox cases, two guineas.

After eight weeks attendance on the same patient, the nurse must return home or be exchanged for another. As far as circumstances permit, nurses are always supplied to the poor gratuitously.

All money for the services of nurses are paid to

the Institution. No nurse is permitted to receive any gratuity in money or clothing.

Every probationer nurse, after her year's training is finished, is engaged for a term of three years, receiving a salary of ten guineas for the first year, and twenty for each of the other two, in addition to board, lodging and washing. If the nurse should engage for a second term of three years, she receives a salary of twenty-two guineas; and the fourth term, twenty-six guineas. On the satisfactory completion of the twelfth year of service, a gratuity of £10 is given to every approved nurse. In addition to all this, there are some articles of dress furnished by the Institution.

In this manner, St. John's House performs a vast amount of good, not only in affording the proper attention to patients in families, and the poor, but frequently to villages and towns suffering from epidemics. It also affords a good field for numbers of respectable but poor females to earn a livelihood.

The ladies of Montreal have been very successful in forming an educational association, which evidently has a brilliant future in store for it. If a few ladies were to unite themselves for the purpose of the facilitating the training of destitute but intelligent females as nurses, we are almost certain the hospital authorities would give them all the aid they possibly could.

Montreal has a very few good nurses, and if this were done, it would be supplying a want long felt, and also afford means for some respectable females to support themselves.

Montreal, July, 1872.

*A case of Poisoning by Opium.* By SILAS EVERETT TABB, A.M., M.D., Professor of Botany and Zoology, University of Bishop's College.

On June 1st, 1872, 11.30 a.m., I was called to visit one J. H., who was supposed to have taken laudanum with the intention of committing suicide. On seeing the patient, which was half an hour after taking the poison, I found her quite reasonable and self-possessed. Pulse 110. I also detected the odour of opium in her breath. She called me aside and informed me she had taken half an ounce of laudanum; but for what purpose, however, she would not disclose. I examined the bottle that was said to have contained the drug, and easily recognized the odor of opium. The patient had obtained the laudanum from a druggist on the pretence of having a very severe ear-ache.

Immediately after getting the above information, I administered twenty grains of sulphate of zinc,