

report to the French Society of Biology, and amongst other facts announces that this lady's hair and skin give out distinct electric sparks, and that when her hair is combed it stands straight up on end, and vivid sparks lighten and crackle round the comb. He adds that in dry and frosty weather these signs are better marked than in damp and warm days. The learned doctor, however, refuses to give the electric lady's name and address, because he fears she will be pestered by some show proprietor. He need not make himself uncomfortable, for there are many similar cases on record, while in a minor degree it is not at all an uncommon thing for thick harsh hair to emit sparks of electricity when roughly and rapidly combed through.

THE art of cameo cutting as a remunerative work for women is engrossing much attention in Manchester. Two ladies specially have made remarkable progress, and promise to attain a high degree of efficiency. There is no doubt that the occupation is one peculiarly suitable for the fingers and taste of ladies, for not only is a delicate strong hand essential, but it must be guided by a considerable degree of artistic knowledge and perception. A special supplement in *The Queen* of last week gives an interesting account of the art, and strongly advises that ladies should adopt it as a new field of work.

THE present year certainly should be a fortunate one for women if portents and planets mean anything in this prosaic nineteenth century. Not only is it Leap Year, but Venus is brighter now than any living creature has ever seen her before, for she is nearer the earth now than she has been for nearly two hundred years, or than she will be again for three hundred and forty years to come. Last Christmas, it may be remembered, there was great excitement, and hundreds of people were firmly convinced that she was the Star of Bethlehem, as she then became so brilliant in the early morning.

HOSPITAL INTELLIGENCE.

COMMUNICATED AND COLLECTED.

POPULAR HOSPITAL FOR ACCIDENTS.—The annual report of this hospital shews a large increase in the number of patients during 1887, which exceeds the record of any previous year in both the in-patients and out-patients departments, being 678 in the former and 9,776 in the latter. Votes of thanks were passed to the honorary and resident medical officers and nursing staff, for their energy and attention during the year. A hearty vote of thanks was given also to Colonel Feneran (the secretary), as the institution was greatly indebted to him, and also to the matron who had succeeded in effecting a saving of at least £500 a year, without detracting from the comfort of the inmates.

CANCER HOSPITAL, BROMPTON.—The Press Association states that there is a considerable amount of discord among the medical staff of this hospital. We deeply deplore the causes which have led to the resignation of Mr. G. Hertslet, C.B. (the treasurer), Sir Francis Alston, K.C.M.G., and Sir S. Hertslet, C.B. (members of the committee); while many other influential members have expressed their intention of doing the same. Surely someone will come forward and endeavour to secure a truce.

IN the *Pall Mall Gazette* of April 11th, there is an interesting article, entitled, "Sick dogs in hospital—an interview with their house-surgeon"; describing very fully the accommodation provided for them. It mentions also that these canine patients have a convalescent home provided for them.

IT has been decided to erect a hospital for the sick poor at Paisley.

AT Sheffield, Lady Fitz-William recently opened the new wards of the Children's Hospital, which will now accommodate thirty-four patients.

GENERAL REPORTS have been issued by the Cheltenham Hospital and the North Riding Infirmary.

A TEMPORARY infectious hospital will be erected shortly at Rawtenstall.

NOTTINGHAM is to be provided with an infectious hospital at a cost of £23,000.

COMPETITIVE PRIZE ESSAY.

A BOOK of the value of One Guinea will be awarded for the best Essay on—
"What Constitutes an Efficient Nurse."

RULES.

1.—Contributions must reach the Editor, at the office of THE NURSING RECORD, not later than May 5th, 1888, addressed as follows, "Prize Essay Competition, THE NURSING RECORD, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C."

2.—Manuscript must be written distinctly in ink, and on one side of the paper only, upon not less than 24 or more than 30 pages of ordinary-sized ruled sermon paper.

3.—The real and full name and address (stating whether Miss or Mrs.) of the Competitor must be inscribed on the back of each contribution, and notification of which hospital or institution the Competitor has been or is attached to.

4.—Trained nurses or those personally associated with nursing work only allowed to compete.

5.—The decision of the Prize Essay Editor to be final, and any infringement of the above rules will be considered a disqualification.

NOTICE.—The Prize Essay Editor will not undertake to return MSS. unless accompanied with a sufficiently stamped addressed envelope.

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