

Smith, Matron, first of the Miller Memorial Hospital, now of the Woolton Convalescent Hospital; Miss Alicia Browne, Lady Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary at Manchester; Miss Bücher, Sister at the Royal Military Hospital at Netley; Miss Mollett, Matron of the Chelsea Infirmary."

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"THEN came the era of the Gold Medals, given twice a year by the Clothworkers' Company, and as nearly as I can find out the following were, in their order, the successful winners of the much coveted prize. Miss Hannah Turner (November, 1885), now Lady Superintendent of the Children's Hospital, Pendlebury; Miss Alice Shrivies (May, 1886), now Sister of Sitwell Ward at St. Bartholomew's; Miss Constable (November, 1886), Night Superintendent at the Great Northern Hospital. At the examination in May, 1887, the examiners reported that the two first candidates were equally good, and therefore each received a gold medal. Sir Sidney Waterlow, the treasurer of the hospital, giving the second one. They were Miss Maud Smith, now Matron of the Homerton Fever Hospital; and Miss Florence Smedley, now Sister of Darker Ward at St. Bartholomew's; Miss Freeman (November, 1887), recently appointed Night Superintendent at St. Bartholomew's. The list is completed by Miss Maud Wisden, the successful medallist this month, who, from all accounts, thoroughly deserves the success she is sure to obtain in her profession."

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I HAVE not previously referred to the trouble which has been in progress at the Dorset County Hospital, because I could not obtain a full account from both sides. But I have now done so and given it to Mr. Editor, who thinks the matter so important that he will "devote a leader to it" as soon as possible. But the facts of the matter, it appears, are that for the last three or four years there has been a continual contention between the committee of management and two members of the medical staff—one physician and one surgeon. The committee have decided that the matron ought to be fully trained, and superintend the nursing at well as the nurses. The two doctors say she shall not go round the wards with them, nor attend operations, and that they will give all their orders direct to the nurses, not through her. The net result has been that in three years there have been and gone no fewer than six matrons!

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THE hospital only contains fifty beds, and so there can be no doubt that a matron with her heart in the work could easily superintend the nursing of every patient, and supervise all the domestic arrangements besides. It is equally certain that nothing tends so greatly to raise the standard of the nursing in any hospital as the presence of an enthusiastic thoroughly-trained woman at its head. And the better the

nursing, of course, the better it must be, not only for the patients, but also for the credit of the institution. I have just heard from Mr. Editor that he has received and will publish this week a communication from Mrs. Bedford Fenwick on this subject, so it is quite unnecessary for me to say any more.

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THERE was a most interesting gathering on the 17th instant at the residence, and by the invitation of Lady Wantage, of the members of the Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association. This society has slowly but steadily grown in usefulness and influence. At the first annual entertainment, which was given by Miss Twining seven years ago, only five nurses were present. Last year the numbers were forty, and this time there were sixty, and many country members were unable to attend. After tea, forty nurses received medals and gratuities from the hands of Lady Wantage. Then Miss Louisa Twining gave a short address on the necessity for thrift among nurses, and in this connection spoke about the National Pension Fund. Miss Wood also spoke in her usual straightforward fashion upon the need for nurses to have careful and prolonged training being more than ever urgent now, because there was evidently a great danger of nursing becoming a fashionable craze, and strongly expressed her own opinion, that, above all things, Thoroughness was essential to a nurse.

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PERHAPS some of my readers do not know that the association was founded in order to promote better nursing in workhouse infirmaries, which, prior to 1879, was almost entirely confided to untrained and generally old pauper women. It has sent probationers to the Brownlow Hill Infirmary, near Liverpool, and other nursing schools, and paid for their training on condition that when trained they should remain in the service of the association, and work in any infirmary to which it sent them for three years. At first there were tremendous difficulties; the nurses were always resigning, because the work was so hard and uninteresting.

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THEN they offered a gratuity of £1 10s. to every nurse who remained two years in one infirmary, and £2 at the end of the third and every following year. They also promised the medal of the association to every nurse who worked for two years in a perfectly satisfactory manner. Since then, resignations have been fewer; the nurses settled down into their places, intending to remain, and soon found things brightened and bettered. It is therefore in no small measure due to the efforts of the association that nursing is now taking such a completely different position in the Poor Law infirmaries, and that earnest workers and highly-cultured gentlewomen, like Miss Vincent, of the Marylebone, Miss Close, of the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)