

"THAT their work is very hard will appear when it is stated that a little time ago, six out of the nine beds in this Hospital were filled with typhoid patients. As to officers treated, since May 1 six have occupied rooms, four being very bad cases, chiefly of typhoid; and the Deputy Surgeon-General writes: 'The Officers' Hospital meets a great want, but four rooms are not sufficient, and we have had to refuse three cases lately.' Can anything prove more clearly than this that the scheme is one really deserving support?"

* * *

"SUCH of us as live in the Hills cannot, perhaps, realise what the life in the Hospitals in the plains is, in the hot weather. It is terribly trying, but, happily, the ladies who have now undertaken it for the first time, have stood the climate admirably. The doctors, it is pleasant to hear, are enthusiastic as to the work done by both the religious and secular Nurses, noting particularly that the improvement in the conduct of men in Hospital is most marked, and that the European orderlies benefit immensely by the instruction they now get. These facts should surely induce Government to extend the scheme; it is an admirable one in every way."

* * *

So in India as well as in Egypt good Nursing is becoming appreciated and valued. Talking of this, I may mention that I have just heard that Dr. Milton, the principal Medical Officer at the Kaisr-el-Aini Hospital, at Cairo, whose interest in, and knowledge of, Nursing I spoke of in a previous number of this journal, is bending all his great energies to improve the Nursing, not only in his own Institution, but in all others in Egypt. Miss Hughes and Miss Munro may, therefore, well be congratulated on their good fortune, in possessing so powerful a supporter, and director in their own efforts.

* * *

It is sad to turn from these inspiring facts, and read such a letter as the following, which appeared in the columns of our esteemed contemporary, the *Morning Post*, last week:—

"SIR,—It is not unfrequently advanced by the advocates of Home Rule that religious bigotry and intolerance are, in Ireland, a thing of the past. That 'Mr. Parnell is a Protestant' is one of the so-called securities for the loyal minority. Since my arrival here, a few days ago I am enabled, I regret to say, to furnish a practical illustration that this fallacy is only one of the many, with regard to Ireland, dished up for consumption by the too gullible British public.

"Owing to a vacancy, a new Nurse was required for the village Hospital on Valencia Island. The local Committee have been fortunate in securing

the services of a lady of tried excellence as a Nurse, and of the most unexceptionable character. The parish priest, although admitting her excellent qualifications for the position, publicly stated that, in consequence of her being a Protestant, he would do all in his power to prevent his parishioners coming to the Hospital, moreover, he would refuse them the last sacrament of the Church, and curse them from the altar. Although the present Hospital was erected with funds supplied by Protestants in the neighbourhood and elsewhere, the late Nurse was a Roman Catholic, and I have thoroughly satisfied myself that the religion of Sister F. did not, in the smallest degree, influence the Committee, and that the election was made solely and entirely because the Committee was convinced that the appointment was the best that could be made.

"Three Roman Catholic Assistant Nurses have been compelled, by the personal interference of the priest, to leave the Hospital. Much suffering is thus inflicted on the poor people who, for seventeen years, have been accustomed to look to the benefit of the village Hospital. I have been informed, but am loath to believe, that the conduct of this priest has the sanction and approval of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Kerry, as I have heard him spoken of as a liberal-minded man.

MAURICE FITZGERALD,

Knight of Kerry.

Valencia Island, July 30th."

I earnestly hope that the day will soon come when distressful Ireland will realise that Nursing is above all creeds. If there is one golden rule which all who profess and follow the Great Physician should take to heart, it surely arises from the simple words, which level all and every other distinction—"I was sick and ye visited me."

* * *

I AM glad to hear that Miss Annie Harper, of the Home for Trained Nurses, Bath, was on Friday last appointed Matron of the Children's Hospital at Gateshead, near Newcastle-on-Tyne, and will commence her duties at that institution on October 1st. She will find plenty of work to do in her new post, and though she probably will not enjoy her propinquity to the smoky Tyne, she will doubtless find—as all her predecessors and neighbouring Matrons have found—that the inhabitants of the "canny town" are kind-hearted and hospitable to a proverbial extent. I therefore can confidently wish her all success and happiness during her residence in the North.

* * *

I HAVE just had the pleasure of reading three Essays on Diets, which the judges consider are

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)