

upon the need of Trained Inspectors—particularly ladies—for our Workhouses and Infirmaries, especially country ones, where even the absolute necessities, such as lint, screens, &c., are unknown. The same subject was still further enlarged upon by Canon Erskine Clarke, who pointed out the existing difficulty of dealing with patients whose cases, being too hopeless for an Infirmary, are relegated to the Unions. He considered it possible that Hospitals would receive the most acute cases if payment were made by the Guardians. Then, after enlarging upon the inconsiderateness and mistaken kindness of untrained Matrons, he gave place to Miss Wood, who, introducing herself as a “Trained Nurse,” gave the sum of her valuable experience before the meeting.

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NURSING, she urged, was Nursing, whether in Hospital or Union, and, so far from Trained Nurses meaning a heavier burden on the rate-payers, this result would be obviated by the quicker and more thorough cure of the sick in our Unions. Pauper-help had been proved by long experience to be absolutely useless, and this by reason of the utter want of hope felt by all when once within the walls of the Workhouse. In conclusion, Miss Wood stated that but lately she had had occasion to trace upon a map all the places where Hospitals exist, and had been greatly surprised at the large area totally unprovided in this respect. Dr. Spicer took for his theme one hitherto untouched upon—viz., the proper care of the children. They are, he said, in most cases, left entirely to pauper help, and often discharged half cured, only to be again returned to the Infirmary in two, or at most three days. At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Rathbone spoke of the immense good that had been done by trained women in the last twenty-two years, before which time nothing but pauper help was employed in our Union Infirmaries.

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MR. EDITOR asks me to say that Miss Blanche Becks, whose article on “Life in a Cottage Hospital,” which appeared in these columns last week, gained the Essay Prize, is the Nurse at the Beckenham Cottage Hospital. Miss Alice Pope, who came out first in the previous Competition, has, I hear, chosen the well-known work, “Shakespeare his own Interpreter,” for her prize.

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A KIND correspondent sends me the following:—“Three of the Nursing Sisters from the Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar, started on Monday, April 1, in H.M. troopship ‘Tamar’ for passage to Malta Hospital. This is the first time that the Admiralty have sent out Sisters to any of the naval

Hospitals abroad, and the term of service is to be for three years. It is said that Sisters are greatly needed at Malta, so many men being annually landed there from the Mediterranean Squadron suffering from typhoid and that other most exhausting complaint known as Mediterranean fever. The three Sisters who left Portsmouth on Monday were Miss Mackay, who was trained at St. Bartholomew's, and who joined the naval Nursing service at its commencement in October, 1884, Miss Cadenhead, and Miss Smith, both trained at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, who were appointed to Haslar R.N. Hospital, the former in August, and the latter in October, 1886. The Sisters had a beautiful morning for their start, and Portsmouth Harbour had seldom looked prettier than when the fine troopship steamed slowly out between the forts at Spithead into the blue haze of the Solent, followed by the good wishes of all the Sisters' friends for their success in the new undertaking.”

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I AM glad to hear of the success of the Levick Institution of English Hospital Trained Nurses in Paris. It was opened, I am told, about five weeks ago, and is already discovered to have supplied a great need. Anyone who has been ill in a French Hotel, and has been confided to the tender mercies of the chambermaid or the still more casual ministrations of a professed French Nurse, will hear with pleasure that should such ill-fortune befall him in future, he can obtain from the Rue de Prony a thoroughly Trained English Nurse. Some years ago there were only one or two Englishwomen engaged in Private Nursing in Paris. Latterly the wants of the large floating or resident English and American Colony have been better supplied in this respect, and there are most excellent Nurses to be obtained. But still the demand is always great, and with the high ideal set before itself by the Levick Institution it ought to flourish, and I sincerely trust will abundantly do so.

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IN answer to my inquiries on the subject of the Midwives' Club, one well-known provincial lady writes as follows:—“We have contended for Parliamentary recognition, and some years ago seemed within a measurable distance of getting it, the writer, and a select and favoured few of her friends, being permitted to peruse the draft of a bill which was not only to provide for the legal Registration of Midwives &c., but foreshadowed a sort of academic (?) robe, and a most portentous kind of head-gear that the strongest minded amongst us would have quailed to don! It was a compromise between a ‘mortar-board’ and a Hospital cap. It would have been open to all the objections of fearless

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