

School over which she presided at Liverpool. I believe that Miss Gibson was offered the new appointment, and requested to organise the Nursing upon modern lines. It is well known how difficult a task this is, and how strenuously such innovations as this implies are resisted even in well-managed Hospitals. All the greater must the difficulties be in Poor Law Infirmaries. It is a very encouraging commentary upon Miss Twining's remarks to find ladies of Miss Gibson's calibre and professional standing willing to undertake such a post. What difficulties have to be contended with, the following extract from the *Birmingham Gazette* of last week, if read between the lines, well exemplifies :—

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“THE arrangements at the new Workhouse Infirmary do not seem to satisfy the Nurses. In the old Infirmary they had insufficient sleeping accommodation, and had to take their meals and their leisure as they could. In the new building a ‘Home,’ detached from the Infirmary, has been provided for them; each Nurse has a dainty little bedroom; there are regular intervals for rest and refreshment; the meals are served in a fine dining-room; the hours of leisure can be enjoyed in a very pretty drawing-room. In the Wards they have conveniences the old Wards could not supply. Their health and their patients' must be much improved. But in the old Wards each Nurse had two or three paupers as servants; in the new, the Nurses are expected to do all the work that generally falls to their lot in a Hospital. This has led to a petty mutiny. The Matron had to threaten to resign in order to obtain a free hand and to maintain discipline. Now some Nurses have been tendering their resignations, and others are expected. The Matron and Mr. Stout (chairman of the Infirmary Committee) hold that the old arrangements were unsatisfactory and irregular, and insist that the staff at the new building must conform to the usual rules. The Nurses, on the other hand, hint that Mr. Stout is peremptory and overbearing, and that the Matron is a martinet.”

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THE Queen of Sweden has just taken her place amongst the many other Royal ladies who now give constant evidences of their interest in and knowledge of Nursing matters. I see it is announced that Her Majesty has become the President of the Home for Sick Nurses, and takes an active part in the organisation and management of the new buildings at Sofia, to which town the institution will, within the next few months, be removed from Stockholm, where it has hitherto been located. The Home seems to have very practical friends, one of whom has given

the necessary bed furniture, &c., for two rooms, and another the full equipment for three more.

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I AM glad to hear that Miss Bowlby was lately appointed Lady Superintendent of the flourishing Nurses' Institution at Perth. Miss Bowlby has had a wide and most varied Nursing experience, which must prove most useful to her in the appointment she now holds. She was, I am told, trained at the Crumpsall Infirmary, at Manchester, and thereafter gained a special certificate for Monthly Nursing. After taking temporary work as Sister in the Liverpool Hospital for Women, she became Sister-in-charge of the Men's Ward at the Whitechapel Infirmary, a post which she held for some time. Miss Bowlby next acted as Sister in St. Peter's Home for Consumptive Cases, and then occupied a similar post in charge of the Women's Surgical Wards at the York County Hospital, which she left to enter on her present duties.

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REGISTRATION is in the air! All the papers last week gave accounts of the efforts which are being made to secure this measure of protection for the public from ignorant workmen in pipes and drains. It is interesting to see how closely the arguments used in this case approach those which are used for Nurses. Witness, for example, the following account of an “influential deputation which has waited upon Mr. Ritchie upon the subject of the national registration of qualified plumbers. Sir Algernon Borthwick, M.P., having briefly introduced the deputation, the Master of the Plumbers' Company addressed the President. He said that their object was to secure properly qualified and efficient plumbers to perform work which might fairly be said to belong to sanitary science. The registration commenced in 1886, and upwards of five thousand applications had been received and upwards of four thousand certificates granted. He asked the Local Government Board to recommend the employment of certificated plumbers only, to the boards of health and medical authorities which were under its jurisdiction. After some remarks by Sir Henry Roscoe, M.P., and Mr. Ernest Hart, Mr. Ritchie assured the deputation that he was perfectly convinced of the importance of the subject, as much of the ill-health which prevailed was undoubtedly owing to lack of sanitary precautions. It was in the power of plumbers to make a house the abode of health or of disease. Therefore the public should have some means of knowing who were the men who were qualified to carry out the work entrusted to them. This undoubtedly could be secured by the proposal to register only those who proved to competent authorities like the Plumbers' Company that they were efficient and trustworthy.”

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