

at good salaries, *who had had absolutely no previous experience of Nursing whatever.* They had been housemaids. With proper training they might have made Nurses, but placed at once on full duty as Assistant Nurses in Wards of thirty-four beds, under Charge Nurses who had *two* such Wards to superintend, the chance of their ever learning even their own ignorance was small.

One undoubted difficulty in many Infirmaries is the smallness of the Nursing Staff and the large number of chronic and convalescent patients, which two facts re-acting on one another often lead to great abuses. Many of the patients are well able to help in the general Ward work, in sweeping, dusting, brass-polishing, &c. ; in fact, it is often better, as in the case of some epileptics, that they should assist to a certain extent, instead of spending the whole day mooning about Wards and day-rooms. But the Nursing Staff is small ; there are no Sisters at the head of the Wards ; supervision is, perhaps, not very keen ; and from one point to another the transition is easy until nursing as well as dusting and brass-polishing are in the hands of the patients, and the Nurse drifts easily into the Workhouse official who is absolutely dependent on pauper help. She loses her briskness and vigour, and thinks she has done her duty when she has bullied others into bringing the Ward to the necessary point of cleanness and order to pass muster at the daily inspection. No woman, of course, who has the true love of Nursing could ever delegate her real Nursing duties to unskilled and untrained hands ; but the danger is there, and, in spite of all rules and regulations, is a very real one.

Another very glaring fault in the management of most Infirmaries is the unsuitable times at which the Nurses are allowed out. Very generally the night Nurses come on duty at 7.30 p.m., and the day Nurses go off and have their passes to go out from that time until ten or eleven p.m.

(To be continued.)

AS OTHERS SEE US.—We are pleased to announce that an American edition of the *Nursing Record* is now published by Messrs. Bromfield and Co., 658, Broadway, New York. This journal has regularly come to us among our exchanges, and we have always regarded it as one of the most successfully edited papers we receive. Anyone interested in Nurses and Nursing cannot fail to be delighted with the *Nursing Record*. Every Hospital in Canada should subscribe for it on behalf of its Nurses, and Medical men can get a surprising amount of valuable information from its pages.—*The Maritime Medical News*.

NURSING ECHOES.

* * * Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.

I AM asked to remind Members of the British Nurses' Association that the next Meeting will be held to-morrow (Friday) evening at eight p.m., at 20, Hanover Square, when the chair will be taken by Mr. Pick—the well-known Surgeon to St. George's Hospital—and a paper on "Private Nursing" will be read by Miss Helen Foggo-Thomson. I am requested by my colleagues on the staff of this Journal to express our united sympathy with Miss Thomson anent the impertinent remarks recently made by a would-be professional paper about her personal appearance. I observe that even one of the readers of the journal in question has felt roused to make a remonstrance upon this point. I have received a good many indignant letters on the subject, and quite agree with the writers.



* * *

BUT so long as Nurses continue to read a paper which is conducted by an unprofessional person, and which loses no chance of exhibiting not only its superfine ignorance of Nursing matters, but also its envy, hatred, and malice against the Nurses' Association, and all those who are doing such a great work for the Nursing profession, they have only themselves to thank if they are "made indignant every week." At first we used to notice and refute the falsehoods and slanders which the paper in question promulgated. But since we found that they were set forth in malice pre-pense, and that the persons chiefly attacked contemptuously ignored them, and, finally, that some of our most valued readers considered that we were paying unnecessary attention to statements from such a quarter, we have rarely referred to its assertions, and in future shall do so with increasing infrequency.

* * *

I AM asked to direct the attention of many who have written about details of Registration to the Editorial on the subject which appeared in these columns last week, and which will give all the information which they severally desire. I may also remind my readers that all applications from Members of the B.N.A. are to be sent in to the Offices of the Association by the 28th of this month. I hear that these are being received

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)