

hope that some of the more energetic of our lay contemporaries, the *Evening News and Post* included, will emphatically point out the many gross evils existing in permitting unqualified and unregistered Nurses to traffic in human life in the above most ignorant and barbarous fashion.

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I NOTE also that our esteemed contemporary, the *Medical Press and Circular*, in its own vigorous way, has the following, and much more, in its last issue upon the "Treatment of Hospital Nurses":—"Practically speaking, too much of the management of the Nursing Staff of all Hospitals is delegated to the official who occupies the post of Matron. We have had a large experience of the internal working of Hospitals, and the conclusion we have formed is that the system in vogue of placing the Matron in supreme charge—it may not be in name—of the Nursing department is not calculated to lead to the best results or to promote the interests of the institution. It is impossible to doubt that such power can be and is abused upon certain occasions, to the detriment of individual Nurses. Of course, to suggest a remedy for this condition of affairs, or to devise an alternative scheme, would be a matter of some difficulty. However, we cannot avoid expressing the conviction that the Matron should always be placed in a distinctly subordinate position to the principal Resident Medical Officer; that the latter should be called upon to decide upon points relating to the intimate working of the Nursing Staff, and that the Matron's duties should be mainly composed of those concerning general supervision and distinguished from general management. Practically, a Matron has the power of exercising an autocracy over the unfortunate women who have been placed under her charge to an extent which is morally sure of being abused in the event of her taking a dislike to any particular Nurse. Thus, in the interests of justice, and for expediency's sake, a new order of things should be introduced in this regard, for the benefit of those who, at all events at present, have no means of protecting themselves."

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I AM pleased to be able to announce that Miss Harris has been appointed Matron of the Suffolk General Hospital at Bury St. Edmunds. Miss Harris trained at Addenbrooke's, and for the last two years has been Matron of Carlisle Fever Hospital.

S. G.

It does us no good to admire what is good and beautiful; but it does us infinitely more good to love it. We grow like what we admire; but we become one with what we love.

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

WAITRESSES.

"They also serve who only stand and wait."

I HAVE dared the shade of immortal Milton, and have taken calmly the above quotation as the motto for this article, though our English Homer little dreamt his pathetic words would be ever used in connection with such a subject—a subject connected most with the prosaic body of man, and not the poetic soul. It is curious to seek the definition of words. *Wait* rightly brings ever to the ears of the hearer a thought of passive endurance; but the word waitress signifies activity. Yet, alas! in many a restaurant the passive verb to wait for is distinctly connected with the active one to wait on, for waitresses are not, any more than waiters, human flashes of lightning, and the unfortunate public have time against their will to learn lessons of patience therein. Hard lines on those who are in a hurry, and is not everyone—men, women and children—in a hurry in this age of steam, electricity, and bustle, with its war-cry ever forward! forward? As to the waitress herself—and by waitress I do not mean barmaid—what are the qualifications she needs? She ought to be a neat-handed Phyllis; but "ought" does not often become "is" in this sad work-a-day world. Good looks, jauntiness—if I may venture on the borderland of slang—quick perceptive powers and height are all necessary, the first the least so. I once knew of a girl who could not obtain such a post, simply from a deficiency in the last named quality. Wages run from five to fifteen shillings. Ten shillings is the usual price paid to the girls at their depôts by Messrs. Stevenson and Company, and also, I believe, by the A.B.C. (or Aerated Bread Company, to give it its full name). The hours at Stevenson's are from nine till eight, but at some "late" restaurants they are much longer. The proprietors are, as a rule, very particular about character, and waitresses hold much the position of other average shop-girls. There are always many applicants for any vacancy which occurs in restaurants or confectioners' shops, for though not interesting nor intellectual, the post possesses the advantage of sociability, of change. Above all, waiting does not need years of apprenticeship. Any average girl can, after a few weeks' practice, carry cups and saucers and can give change. But the art of memory must be cultivated, or else one would get sorely puzzled sometimes to remember the different orders—three teas, two coffees, one lemonade, bovril, &c.; also to recall which asked for cake, which for scones, which for rolls and butter. Echo must often answer, Which. The miles walked in

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)