

to compete for the Prize Essay Competition, which, of course, will be continued as usual. I am asked to state that if these first few "Questions" are appreciated, a prize will be given every week. Mr. Editor has several other little schemes up his sleeve, which, I feel sure, will still further enhance the usefulness of this journal, only I am not allowed to mention them at present.

\* \* \*

Will any reader who knows of a vacant partnership, where a lady, thoroughly trained and competent, could safely invest, say, £300, with her services as superintendent, in an established going "Home for Patients" (London preferred), kindly communicate with Mr. Editor *in confidence*? The lady would not object to a partnership with a Medical Practitioner who might be disposed to entertain her services in his institution.

\* \* \*

THE *Daily News*, which knows apparently as much about Nursing as it does about political matters, for the same flippant style which it treats both to be evidenced in its columns, had a more than usually silly article on "Hospital Nurses" in its issue of the 31st of last month. I intended dealing with this said article, but have not had the space at my disposal, and now I am saved the trouble, for the *Sussex News* has taken the matter up and dealt with it in a very trenchant manner indeed. It says:—"A Nurse," writing about Nurses in the *Daily News*, bears somewhat too hardly on the lady Probationer, and takes what we must ungallantly call a rather hard-headed view of the whole matter. This is not a question of chicken and champagne for the Nurses, boudoirs for them to loll in when they ought to be looking after their patients, and ladies' maids to wait on them. Not at all; but it is a question of feeding the Nurses well, of giving them no more than a reasonable amount of ward-duty, and of saving them from certain menial duties which can very well be discharged by persons who have not brains enough for the intellectual branches of a Nurse's work. Says 'A Nurse': 'Everything turns on the point of the class of Nurses employed; a woman taken from the domestic servant class is ready and willing to work for twelve hours a-day, and does not expect to be fed on oysters and champagne; but the damsels of high degree who now affect a Nurse's garb are naturally shocked at the labour demanded of them, and turn up their noses at tinned lobster in the salad.'"

\* \* \*

"WITH all due deference to 'A Nurse,' this strikes us as being a wrong and improper view of the question. The 'woman taken from the domestic class' is seldom likely to be as good at

the higher branches of Nursing as the woman of refinement and an inbred consciousness of her responsibilities; and we should much like to know where to look for the 'woman taken from the domestic servant class' who, if she had the chance of a housemaid's place in a respectable family, would choose in preference a working-day of twelve hours in the crowded Ward of a Hospital. This is really nonsense. At the London Hospital, says 'A Nurse,' it was made a rule some years ago that each Nurse should be off duty two hours daily. Why, good gracious! The housemaid has about three times as much leisure as that. 'Think, fair damsels,' says our Nurse again, 'you will have to wield a broom, and you will have to walk up and down a long room till you are weary.' More shame to the Hospital authorities who expect their Nurses to do these things. There is, to be sure, nothing derogatory to a lady wielding a broom; but in a great Hospital there is always much more important work for her to do; while there are plenty to wield the broom who are quite unfitted for the higher duties of the calling. As for compelling Nurses to walk up and down the wards till they are weary, what sort of useful service do the authorities think they will get out of them in those circumstances? There is no occasion to pamper the Nurses; but underfeeding and over-working them are more serious evils still." I can only add this, that if the writer of the article in the *Daily News* could only himself be put to fourteen hours' Nursing a day for a short time, his paper would come out with a little more breadth, in at all events *some* of its effusions.

\* \* \*

THAT excellent association, the Worcester City and County Institution, finds it necessary to increase its work by taking an extra house next door to the present building. It now sends (1) Nurses among the sick-poor; (2) It undertakes the Nursing of patients who pay for such aid; and (3) It receives private patients on whom serious operations are performed, and who can be more conveniently and beneficially treated in its house rather than in their own homes. I cordially wish it continued success, and a further accession to its funds. S. G.

—♦♦♦—

WE must needs trust where we love. We must needs trust as we ourselves are trustworthy. The light and fickle and false and suspicious must live according to their own rules; but the men and women who are trustworthy will ever trust—for we see the world through our own glasses, and the evils we are not conscious of in ourselves we do not generally credit to others.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)