

which in a confined space it is contrived to secure for the Nursing Staff.

"In this connection you may be interested to hear a story which I was told in reference to the nursing management, by one of the medical staff—a Lady Doctor, of course. It was about one of those ovariectomy cases which are perhaps the commonest occasion of overworking a Nurse, as it is usual to keep the same one in attendance until a critical period—sometimes days and nights in length—is passed. The Lady Doctor, as Doctors use, remarked to the Matron, 'I shall want the same Nurse to-night and to-morrow.' 'Oh, no,' was the reply; 'I couldn't think of letting my Nurses be worked like that.' 'But they have always done it for me at—.' 'I'm sorry—it's altogether wrong,' was the final reply. Told by the Doctor to the credit of the Matron, I repeat the story to the credit of both."

NURSES owe a deep debt of gratitude to Sir James Crichton Browne for his eloquent advocacy of their cause, and his constant and invaluable assistance to the British Nurses' Association, of whose Executive Committee, I hear, he has recently been elected a member. He gave a very interesting and important lecture at St. George's Hall, under the auspices of the Sunday Lecture Society, on Sunday last. The subject of the discourse was "Brain Stress," and the learned lecturer pointed out the increased amount of nervous strain and expenditure of physical and mental energy entailed by the modern race for wealth; this race, he said, is the hardest in America, where indigestion and nervous breakdown are more common than here, and a large number of altogether new nervous diseases have been introduced previously unknown to science. We are unfortunately following fast in this evil track. Optimists point to the decreased death rate, but this is due almost entirely to reduction in the death rate of infants and young people owing to improved sanitation. The chances of life after fifty-five years of age are less than they were even a decade ago, and the increase in the numbers of deaths from all diseases in which there is a nervous element, and of cases of insanity and suicide is most alarming. We have decreased the deaths from zymotic diseases, but increased those due to nervous exhaustion. It is a wrong view of life that makes work its end and aim—eight hours' work, eight hours' play, and eight hours' sleep is a rational standard. If by furthering General Booth's plans we could abolish the extreme of poverty, we should abolish that fear of it which now urges the lower middle classes to excessive effort, and all should know that life is worth

living every day, and not struggle hard during the greater part of life for wealth which will come too late to give happiness.

I MUST advise as many of my readers as possible to see "Punch among the Planets"—the map in Mr. Punch's Christmas Number. In the Milky Way the Hospital scandals are depicted, the prominent "figure" being unmistakable, I am told. If Mr. Harry Furniss adds his pencil to Mrs. Hunter's pen, there will soon be a revolution in Nursing circles.

I AM glad to learn that at an examination for Inspectors of Nuisances, held at London in connection with the Sanitary Institute, Parkes Museum, 74A, Margaret Street, W., on December 4 and 5, ninety-five candidates presented themselves. Questions were set to be answered in writing on the 4th, and the candidates were examined *viva voce* on the 5th. Fifty-one candidates were certified to be competent, as regards their sanitary knowledge, to discharge the duties of Inspector of Nuisances. I find among the fifty-one successful that the name of a lady, "Scott, Margaret Eleanor, 133, Abbey Road, N.W.," is given.

THE *Hospital Gazette* has the following bright smart words upon the recent London Hospital revelations:—"The authorities at the London Hospital have managed to 'sit upon' the grumblers who urged that various reforms in the Nursing arrangements were called for, and according to the rules of the game the latter ought to consider themselves beaten. This, however, is precisely what persons of that class never seem to see, and they arise, phoenix-wise, from their pulverised selves, ever with the same pertinacious criticisms. If the speeches of such potentates as Mr. Buxton and Sir James Hay Currie are to be taken for gospel, there never was and never could be a better system of Nursing organisation than that in vogue at the above-mentioned institution, and those who ventured to assert the contrary are ill-bred, despicable mischief-mongers. Methinks these gentlemen seek to prove too much, for there never was any system of Nursing which was not capable of improvement. In truth they seemed to have at heart to show that the Matron was a model of self-restraint and good management, hence that she ought to enjoy, as heretofore, power of life and death over the young women who elect to enter her employ. My impression is, however, that everybody is the better for the consciousness of there being a court of appeal, if necessary, to judge their acts. Hospital Matrons, being females, and therefore liable to certain little

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