

She cannot give her whole and undivided attention to the work there, and it must suffer. If she has taken charge in the Operating Room, the Ward Nurse has less interest in the case operated on. Then it must be remembered that the work of Matron and Nurse are not interchangeable; the Matron may do Nurse's work, but the Nurse should not be put in the Matron's place. What can be more unsuitable than for the Matron to devote herself to a pneumonia or tracheotomy case, and the Nurse to do the honours of the house and show round a party of visitors to the Hospital? and yet such things often happen. The Nurse can never learn to take the whole bearings of the case into her mind, and when the Matron is called away to other imperative duties it is not to be wondered at if the Nursing is unsuccessful.

The question of the relative responsibility of Matron and Resident Medical Officer is one that I will only touch on, though that also wants defining in many cases. We must not overlook the fact that the R.M.O.'s come and go at comparatively short intervals of time, so that it is necessary that the Matron be cognisant of much in his department as well as her own. I cannot see that there need ever be friction, if each, with due consideration of the other, keep their own place, but I can imagine nothing more likely to cause friction than the Matron being partly Nurse, and the Nurse of the Ward not responsible.

Let then the rule be, in our small Hospitals, as in our large, that each Ward, or set of Wards, has its own responsible Sister or Head Nurse, who is answerable to the Doctor for the carrying out of his orders, to the Matron for carrying out hers, and for the conduct of the Nurses under her. Let such Sisters be thoroughly trained, and co-operate with the Matron in her teaching of the juniors. Their's is the practical work in the Wards, the Matron's, the more theoretical teaching of the class-room; and then the result will be that our small Provincial Hospitals will send out Nurses whose training and tone in work will compare with any sent out with Certificates from the best Training Schools. The small Hospitals will thus extend their usefulness in a most important direction, and the whole Nursing Profession benefit thereby—"a consummation to be devoutly wished for."

#### WHERE TO GO.

Mr. and Mrs. GERMAN REEDS ENTERTAINMENT. Under the management of Mr. Alfred German Reed and Mr. Corney Grain. "The Old Bureau," written by H. M. Paull, Music by Alfred J. Caldicott; a new Entertainment; followed by Mr. Corney Grain's New Musical Sketch, entitled, "The Diary of a Tramp." Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at Eight; Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at Three.—Stalls, 6s. and 3s.; Admission, 2s. and 1s.—St. George's Hall, Langham Place, W.

#### NURSING ECHOES.

\*.\* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS BEATRICE was present at the Albert Institute, Windsor, when the



clothing contributed by the associates of the Berkshire and Buckinghamshire Needlework Guild, of which she is the president, was exhibited previous to its distribution among the poor and the charitable Institutions of the two counties. The

Queen sent a small neatly-knitted, light chocolate-coloured wool shawl, edged with salmon-pink scalloping and tassels, the cord upon it bearing the inscription "worked by Her Majesty the Queen." This was exhibited upon the principal stand, and was surrounded by a quantity of wearing apparel that had been made by Princess Beatrice, who also gave five complete sets of bedclothes, which are to be presented to Princess Christian's District Nurses for use among the poor.

THE PRINCESS OF WALES has devoted herself incessantly to the nursing of her son Prince George, since her return from Russia, for, like a mother, her attendance at the bed-side is a labour of love. Her presence in the sick-room is reported to have been most beneficial to the patient, as might have been expected, for her sweetness and goodness are proverbial.

At the recent election of a Matron for the Homerton Hospital, Miss Hastings, Staff Nurse at St. Bartholomew's, and who has quite lately obtained her certificate, was recommended by the Committee to the Asylums Board to fill the vacancy. Miss Hastings has, doubtless, every qualification for her position, excepting experience, which in this particular case is quite indispensable. Considering the recent exposure of mismanagement at this Hospital, it was the duty of the Committee to have selected a lady as Matron who had *proved* herself, in the responsible position of Sister or Matron, a capable administrator—a woman used to superintend the work of others, who had tact in the performance of such duties, and who had some knowledge of Poor-Law administration. A novice would just at present find herself in an utterly false position as Matron of the Eastern Fever Hospital. I commend this to the earnest attention of the Metropolitan Asylums

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