

the City. As no money is received for the services of these Nurses, we are dependent on the subscriptions and donations of the benevolent for their support. Another source of expense is sending Nurses on reduced terms to those who require specially skilled attendance, but who are unable to pay the full charge. Twenty-four Nurses have been supplied to these cases for sixty weeks, on reduced terms, and in two cases no charge whatever was made. In view of the somewhat unsatisfactory state of the funds of the Institution, owing to the demands made upon them for the purposes above-mentioned, we have thought ourselves justified in calling attention more widely than has been hitherto our custom, to the nature of the work of the Institution, and to its claim for more general support."

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WHY on earth do our contemporaries take the *Hospital* "au grand sérieux?" I wonder if they have any idea of the amusement they cause to medical men; for example, by assuming that this journal, edited by an official of the Stock Exchange, is a medical periodical. But even *Woman*, who is, as a rule, fairly wide-awake, has been the most recent victim, and gravely discusses our comic contemporary's latest joke with the utmost gravity, as follows:—

"I was always under the impression that the primary object of hospitals was philanthropy. But the *Hospital*, which ought to know, tell us that this is an exploded notion. As the special organ of hospitals, in a recent issue, it solemnly ranks 'the three notions and facts' associated with hospitals in the following order: (1) Medical practice; (2) nursing; and (3) philanthropy. Perhaps this view of the matter held by hospital authorities has been realised by the philanthropic public, and to this may be due the falling off in subscriptions of which so many hospitals complain.

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THE following sensible and instructive letter appeared recently in our always interesting contemporary *Tit-Bits*. I would, however, like "Matron" to name the Hospitals at which the Nurses "rarely retire before twelve o'clock at night":—

DEAR SIR,—There is, perhaps, at the present time no profession open to ladies on which there has been such a run recently as Nursing. I have no desire to say a word against the noble calling; on the contrary, I believe that there is no occupation in this world which culls out all the best parts of woman's nature—her tenderness, courage, and kindness—as this does. At the same time, there is always a danger of young people thinking that a Nurse's life is all sunshine and no cloud. Allow me to inform English young ladies that a Nurse's life in Hospital is a very severe and trying one indeed. She, as a rule, rises at five o'clock, and rarely retires before twelve o'clock at night. She is but seldom in possession of any leisure, and her mind is constantly on the rack while attending to her patients. She often meets with ungrateful return for all her kindness, and is, as a rule, so closely looked after that there is not a single moment of the day which she can call her own. Besides, the English market is so over-stocked, and situations difficult to obtain. If, how-

ever, young ladies have set their hearts on nursing, will you allow me to press the claims of foreign service on their attention.

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Abroad, English Nurses are very much better paid than they are here, and are held in greater esteem. In Paris, a Nurse in private work earns about £12 a month, while at the Hertford Hospital, the Levick Home, and Madame Neilson's Institution, they can easily earn £28. At Nice £3 a month, with uniform, laundress, and travelling expenses, is the ordinary rate of pay. At San Remo and Rome there is a great demand for English Nurses who can speak French. The colonies open up a good field for Nurses. Montreal, at the McGill College, pays £37 a year, with washing and uniform. In Melbourne, at the Nurses' Home, in Alma Road, the wages are from £40 to £50 a year, with board, lodging, and 25 per cent. on earnings. The Nurses' Home at Sydney pays at the rate of £26 a year; 10s. a week when on active duty, or £1 extra with an infectious case. At the General Hospital, Brisbane, some of the salaries are as high as £70 a year. Throughout Australasia, it is stated on good authority, a Nurse working on her own account can earn £2, or if engaged in infectious cases, £3 or £4 a week. South Africa, though a trying field, offers good inducements to English Nurses. The pay is high and the cost of living low, but ladies who proceed there must be content with high thinking and poor living, in order to make headway. In some of the large towns in the States there is a demand for English Nurses. At Philadelphia, Cincinnati, and New York they are paid as high as \$15 to \$25 a week. Of course, the American institutions send a large number of American ladies into the field, and the ground is pretty well occupied. The Government sends Nurses to Hong Kong, Gibraltar, and Egypt, where good pay prevails. The military and naval services offer many attractions for Nurses. They receive the honourable title of Her Majesty's Nursing Sisters, and must be trained for three years in a good general hospital. The Nursing Sister receives, to begin with, a salary of £30, increasing to £50. A senior Nursing Sister who acts as superintendent will receive as high as £70 to £100. Lady superintendents are paid from £150 to £200 per annum.—Yours truly,
MATRON.

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THE *St. James's Gazette* has earned amongst Nurses the unenviable reputation of being generally incorrect in its statements upon Nursing matters. On the 8th inst., therefore, I was not surprised to notice the following paragraph:—

"Dr. BEZLY THORNE spoke with subtle sarcasm at the Mansion House yesterday when he complimented the audience at the special meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association on assembling in 'such numbers.' The meeting was, in truth, very thinly attended. Princess CHRISTIAN presided, and looked remarkably well and handsome in a warm crimson gown, with a black velvet Zouave jacket, edged with jet, and coquettish black and crimson bonnet. The Lady Mayoress had a pretty blue and black dress, and several other dainty toilettes alleviated the professional severity of the medical men's attire. A meeting to consider the prevention of cholera may seem a little premature, but Dr. THORNE said that England was more liable to its visitation in the second summer than in the first. Princess CHRISTIAN has taken this possibility deeply to heart, and it is to her patriotic exertion that the present movement is due."

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NOR that on the next day it was followed by this letter:—

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)