

THE Committee have been at considerable expense lately in perfecting the sanitary condition of the Hospital, and, in so doing, the health and comfort of the Nursing Staff has been considered in every particular.

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THE following letter is far from encouraging, and the work of the Matron must be somewhat disheartening. She must be for ever teaching, and in return, the patients do not receive the benefit of the instruction given to the Nurses in their first year. A north country Matron writes:—

"Our staff consists of three Sisters—two day and one night; two Assistant Nurses, and six Probationers (for 56 beds). Unfortunately, the Probationers only remain with us one year, the Hospital being badly supported. The Committee will not allow me to train longer, as they cannot give them progressive salaries. The Nurses pay us a small entrance fee. After leaving us, they usually join another Hospital for three years to get thoroughly well trained."

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A CONFERENCE of lady guardians was held at 83, Lancaster-gate, last week, when the Countess of MEATH read a paper on the best means of supplying infirmaries and infirm wards with trained Nurses. The chair was taken by the Earl of MEATH. Lady MEATH said:—

"That the care of the helpless through age was a serious responsibility, especially when they could not make their wants known outside where they lived. People must be very sanguine if they considered that in England, at the end of the nineteenth century, the best was done for the people by thrusting them into gloomy workhouses, often more dreaded than death. The professors of the religion of love did not show much in their treatment of the aged poor. She was aware that of late years a number of workhouses had marvellously improved. Gross abuses had been swept away, but such institutions were not the rule, but the exception. Out of the 600 workhouses in England, there were far too many of the old type, and even in the best there was something still to be desired, and this would be the case till some happy method of classification could be hit upon."

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"She herself had been much struck when abroad with the work done for the aged and infirm by the "Little Sisters of the Poor." She had hoped to establish a sisterhood in connection with the Church of England who would devote themselves to the care of the aged poor, but she had failed in this. She now thought that what had been accomplished by Miss Louisa Twining for the sick in workhouses might be extended to the aged and infirm. The attendants ought to have some knowledge of Nursing, but much more kindness, patience, and charity. She was very anxious to bring their debate to some practical result, and therefore proposed:—1. That an association be formed for providing suitable attendants for the aged and infirm in workhouses. 2. That such an association should be placed on a distinctly religious basis, only such persons being chosen to undertake the care of the infirm who seemed to be actuated by highly conscientious motives, and who were willing to bind themselves together into some sort of guild, as well as go through the necessary training. 3. That a committee be formed to organise the association."

EVENTUALLY it was decided that a committee of the lady guardians present be formed for the purpose of considering the best means of improving the condition of the aged poor in workhouses. There is but one way to accomplish this good, and that is that gentle people should be placed in all official positions in our workhouses; there is no hope for the aged pauper under the autocratic rule of the "master and mistress," drawn, as they are in many cases, from a totally uneducated class.

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THE first of a series of lectures on Health and Sick Nursing, promoted by the Clayton School Board, has just been delivered in the Village School in connection with the Evening Continuation School conducted by Miss TATTERSALL. The class was exceedingly well attended, not only by the regular students of the classes, but also by mothers who evidently fully appreciated the skill and experience of the lecturer as she dealt with the treatment of infants and children in sickness and in health as regards their food, their clothing, and their cleanliness.

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A REGISTERED Nurse and well-known lecturer writes:—

"There appeared lately in an influential contemporary a letter signed, 'One who writes from Experience,' on the subject of Ambulance Teaching in Villages. I wonder if this correspondent has seriously considered what the result would be of letting loose on the population a band of lady lecturers whose only qualifications for this most important subject would be that they had passed the St. John Ambulance examinations and gained their certificates. It is quite true that a lady may be able to put things in simpler language than a medical man, but she can only do this if she thoroughly understands what she is talking about; and as her acquaintance with the subject under the proposed circumstances would only be of the most superficial nature, it would be a sheer impossibility for her to handle it properly, and make it plain to her hearers. Further, as these subjects belong exclusively to the domain of the medical man, it would be most unwise for a lady to lecture on, or in any way pretend to treat, them. If it is deemed that such slender qualifications are sufficient, why not confine herself to the nursing aspect of the case which comes essentially within a woman's province, and would be of much greater practical value to rustic audiences. As a lecturer, however, of some experience, I venture to assert that it is only by practical acquaintance with facts resulting from long experience, that instruction of this nature can be conveyed simply and in a popular form to the lay public. 'Half a loaf may be better than no bread,' so long as it is bread and not a stone that is offered. A little learning is such a dangerous thing, and in no region more so than in medicine where life and death is too often the issue at stake."

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THE principal Nursing vacancies for the week are: A Matron to a private Gynæcological Hospital of about twelve beds at Manchester: apply to Dr. SINCLAIR, 250, Oxford Street, Manchester. A Lady to work amongst the poor, Stone Nursing Institution; salary £60, and outdoor uniform. Charge Nurses at the Fountain Fever Hospital, Grove Road, Lower Tooting, S.W. (to be opened shortly).

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