

Hospital, on May 10. A satisfactory financial report was presented, special stress being laid on the income derived from the Nursing Institution attached to the Hospital, which has proved a source of revenue instead of expenditure as some of the supporters of this most valuable Devonshire charity feared. The High Sheriff of Devon (who was present) was elected president for the year on the motion of the Mayor of Exeter, seconded by Col. WYATT-EDGELL, J.P. Among the members of committee appointed were Lord SEATON, Colonel BLAKE, Sir DUDLEY DUCKWORTH-KING, the Rev. E. J. DUPINS, B.D., and Lieut.-Colonel MARTYN."

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Now, with all due difference to these, doubtless, well-meaning gentlemen, we are quite unable to congratulate them upon the justice of their management, and hope that before the next annual meeting takes place, the true significance of this "source of revenue" will have become understood by all concerned. Nurses who permit their labours to be utilised as a "source of revenue" for charitable institutions, are lacking in true self-respect, and High Sheriffs, Mayors, J.P.'s, and such like dignitaries, who can publicly express their approval of a system which, in plain English, means depriving the Nurse of her just earnings, under the plea of supporting a charity, cannot be congratulated upon their views of justice and right.

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A MEETING of Matrons took place on Wednesday, by invitation of Miss ISLA STEWART, at the Matron's house at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, to discuss the advisability of forming a Matrons' Council for mutual help and the free discussion of professional matters. Those present unanimously resolved that such a Council was greatly needed and should be formed, and that the Matrons of all Hospitals, Infirmaries, and Nursing Institutions should be eligible for membership. A small provisional Committee was formed to carry out the resolution that the Matrons of all British Hospitals should be invited to attend a meeting, early in July, to decide upon the constitution, and elect the officers, of the new Society.

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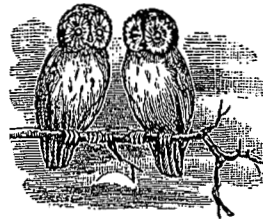
MISS ISLA STEWART has initiated a Debating Society amongst the Nursing Staff at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, at which business procedure will be taught and members encouraged to express their opinions upon the subjects chosen for discussion.

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MANY Guy's Nurses will be grieved to hear of the sudden death of Miss MARY W. STRICK, which took place on Friday, the 18th inst., at the Leicester Infirmary. Universally respected and beloved, her death has been a great shock to her colleagues.

Matrons in Council.

*Is the formation of a Matrons' Council desirable?
and, if so, what should be its programme of work?*



MADAM,—I agree with Miss Stewart as to the advisability of forming some kind of Matrons' Council for the discussion of topics of general interest to Matrons. It would be a great pleasure to us, and I have no doubt of much assistance in many ways, though I feel inclined

to deprecate the too hasty assumption that the grand modern panacea for all troubles, *i.e.*, talk, will be a complete solution for all our little difficulties. I am not sure that discussion is a sovereign remedy for all grievances. I doubt much whether it is possible or desirable for a Hospital Matron to cease to work in a more or less isolated manner as far as her own particular domain is concerned. There is so much work that must be thought out and done alone, so much that must be met and fought singlehanded, so much that loses in individuality, vigour, and strength, when it is made the subject of general discussion at a general meeting. A Matron must have learnt to lean on her own strength, she must be able to make up her own mind and stand on her own feet; and I often think the contemplation of a great many other people's ways of doing things is apt to lead to hesitation, and a Matron cannot afford to be uncertain. But there is no doubt that meeting with those who have the same work, the same troubles, the same interests as you have, and who can understand what you say, is an immense pleasure and comfort. Outsiders never can quite understand a Matron's difficulties.

"The toad beneath the harrow knows
Exactly where each tooth point goes.
The butterfly upon the road
Preaches contentment to that toad."

So we shall enjoy the sympathy and interest of our fellow-sufferers, but I fancy we shall keep our own opinions intact. Few Matrons, I am sure, will be willing to admit that their system is not the best of all possible systems, and incapable of being improved upon. As to the clever Mrs. C., who twists a whole Committee round her little finger, she will always be with us. Do not even the majority of the members of our august House of Commons submit very meekly to a ruling managing spirit, and follow one another with remarkable unanimity into the particular lobby to which their whip gently coerces them? A Matrons' Council will be a sort of Parliament of the elect to which every one will go with much glee and ready-formed unalterable opinions.—I remain, Madam, yours faithfully,

M. MOLLETT,
Registered Nurse,
Matron, Royal South Hants County Hospital.

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