

item in their visit to certain country houses. Indeed, to such a length have servants carried this matter in some places, that it has evoked, under assumed names of course, a correspondence and various articles in the daily Press, and the probability is, that, in the case of ordinary visitors, "tipping" will be rigorously forbidden, in future, in many households.

The question of "tips" by Nurses, however, seems to stand upon a rather different footing, because, on the one hand, services are undoubtedly rendered to the Nurse, especially in large households, of a particularly intimate and valuable character; and it might, therefore, be argued that she should, at the same time, recompense the assistants and distinguish herself from being on a level with the domestics by giving the latter some gratuity at the end of her stay. We consider, however, that the matter should not be looked at in this light. The Nurse's presence in the house is not on her own initiative, nor for her own pleasure, but solely in order to render skilled assistance to some member of the household on a bed of sickness. The duties involved in her vocation require that she should devote her time and strength as exclusively as possible to the nursing of the patient. It therefore follows that she must be, and that, through her, the patient must be, dependent, to a very large extent, upon extraneous help for many menial duties. The domestic servants are paid for rendering such services in times of health, and, therefore, all the more in times of sickness; and the Nurse, in requiring such services, becomes merely the exponent of the patient's wants, while so far as attendance upon herself is concerned, she must be considered as being on the same footing as the patient.

All this would tend to show that it is unnecessary for the Nurse to consider it at all incumbent upon her to give gratuities to servants in reward for services thus rendered, however complaisantly and thoughtfully these may have been given. On another ground, we would say that it is almost wrong to herself, and to others of her calling, that the Nurse should indulge in the pleasure of such gifts. She is not too highly paid for the services which she renders, and must look forward to making some provision against the time when she can no longer work. If she is to give unnecessary gratuities to the servants in every house in which she works, she will find it impossible to be just to herself. While, then, we should be glad to hear what our readers think about this matter, we would at once answer our correspondent's question in the negative, and express our opinion that it is both unnecessary and unwise for Nurses to "tip" the servants in the houses in which they are called upon to work.

#### THE WHIRLIGIG OF TIME.

A careful consideration of some of the changes introduced by the new Local Government Act into parochial affairs in this country, leads us to believe that the whirligig of time is once more bringing in his revenges. Some hundred years ago, those women who held property in their own right succeeded to titles and to manorial powers equal to those enjoyed by men. Now the Lady of the Manor, although she may keep her ancient title, has not the right, which is accorded to any rustic upon her estate, of voting at a Parliamentary election; and even so far as parochial matters go, she possesses few of the privileges to which in former days she would have been entitled. The Local Government Act—to take it at present merely upon broad grounds—has done two important things. It has given women very enlarged opportunities both of voting for, and of being elected as, a representative of the Parish, or of the District, upon its respective Council; and it has, therefore, given them the increased responsibilities of citizenship, which, if they pay rates, it is clearly their irrefutable right to possess. In the next place, the new Act has practically created so many additional voting Registers as to have rendered confusion worse confounded. There are no less now than seven distinct Voting Lists, of which three affect women chiefly; namely, the County Council and Parochial, which includes ownership voters who are women; the Town or County Council, Parochial and School Boards, Registers, which include unmarried women occupiers; and the Parochial Register, which includes married women with separate qualifications. We cannot but believe that this multiplicity of details will inevitably lead to the adoption of the only form of registration simplicity—that is to say, one General Register alike for Parliamentary, County Council, and Parochial Council, voters; and upon which women householders and women ratepayers will hold the same status as that which is given thereon to men.

#### HOSPITAL PAY WARDS.

A curious illustration of the close connection which now exists between Medicine and Nursing was given by a meeting which was recently held to enable medical men to protest against the proposal of the Great Northern Central Hospital to admit paying patients into the wards of that Institution. It was urged that not only would medical men suffer by such a deprivation of patients as this step would entail, but also that a great injury would be inflicted upon those Nurses in the neighbourhood who had established Homes for the reception of better-class patients. Indeed, this argument was used with much force in asserting that there was no need for the institution of pay wards in a public Hospital while patients could obtain such benefits in a properly organised private Home. We cordially agree with those who employed this argument, and hold that an Institution supported by public benevolence for the benefit of the sick poor, has no right to enter into competition with a private business maintained for the benefit of self-supporting and self-respecting persons who are naturally disinclined to accept the charity which entrance into a public Hospital inevitably involves.

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