

tically required, hotel hospitals, comfortably, and for the richer class, even elegantly furnished and fitted with everything that is necessary for the sick in any form of disease. These hotel hospitals should be conveniently planted for the service of every one, so that if a person is ill he shall be able to find a room in one of them where he can be looked after by his own medical adviser and friends."

\* \* \*

Sir Benjamin evidently thinks that on the principle that hotels are provided in all localities for the convenience of the healthy members of the community, so there should be equal provision of hotels for the sick.

\* \* \*

IN many towns and districts, conflicts arise in the care of the sick poor through "sectarian" troubles—occasioned by the differences of "Church and Dissent." In many towns where the Nonconformists are too few in number to appoint a district Nurse of their own, the "chapel folk" suffer severely when ill, from the want of skilled Nursing. In some northern towns, on the contrary, where the Nonconformists are a strong body, *they* appoint the district Nurse, and the Church people in their turn are not supplied with proper care during illness.

\* \* \*

Now it would certainly seem that district Nursing in all cases should be free from any suspicion of sectarianism. The sick person should not be regarded from the point of view of creed. "I was sick and ye visited me," should be the motto of all District Nursing Associations, and no questions should be asked as to whether the sufferer elects to occupy a pew in the Established Church, is a follower of the Salvation Army bands, or "gathers grace" from the lips of the Wesleyan minister. It is enough that he is ill, and be he Jew or Gentile, he is entitled to every care. The strength of union is a conceded point, and it would be most strengthening for District Associations and the sick under their charge, if in all villages, towns and cities, all denominational differences were lost sight of and all sects united in their desire to relieve the sick of their neighbourhood, on the strength of a human claim.

\* \* \*

It is impossible to read the account of the death of Miss Ross, the Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and the sad circumstances relating to it, without feeling the utmost sympathy with her, and her relatives and friends. Miss Ross had been Matron of the Infirmary for some four years, and previously had held two other appointments in the same Institution. It appears that the anxieties

of her position—and the post of Matron of a Hospital is always an arduous and an anxious one—had been somewhat increased by an unpleasant circumstance in connection with the re-adjustment of some Nursing matters. The incident was extremely trivial, but it appears, unfortunately, to have weighed on Miss Ross' mind to such an extent that in temporary distress, she left her room at about 3 a.m. on July 22nd, went to the operating theatre and took a solution of bichloride of mercury, and was found some hours later in a dying condition in her bedroom. She died at 9.30 a.m., shortly after making a statement as to the poison she had taken.

\* \* \*

At an inquest held to enquire into the circumstances connected with the sad event, the verdict was returned "That death arose from poison taken by Miss Ross during temporary aberration of mind." The incident has aroused the utmost sympathy of the medical and Nursing staffs, by whom Miss Ross was very much appreciated, and the Committee have expressed their sorrow at the loss under such very unfortunate circumstances of their valued Matron, who was so much respected and liked, and who had shown such a strong devotion to the interests of the Hospital in which she had worked for twelve years.

\* \* \*

The complexities of life and the strain on nervous resources have never before been so exaggerated as they are at this time when the nineteenth century is drawing to a close. On every side, complaints are made of the rush and hurry of our daily lives, and "the pace that kills" at no time has gone so fast. And if this be true of the conditions of the average person, how much more true it is with regard to Hospital life. The ever increasing standard, the exigencies of the scientific training of Nurses and the general thoroughness carried into every department of our Institutions, throws an ever increasing burden upon the central authority. In every stage of Hospital evolution, the Matron has always had a more or less hard life, but in the happy-go-lucky past times, the strain was more physical than mental. There was a certain amount of overlooking and inspection to be done, but it was done more or less by the exercise of the muscles. But to-day it is a very different story.

---

"SAMARITAN" PURE DELICIOUS CEYLON TEA delivered free in London and Suburbs at 2s. per lb. Minimum quantity for Country 25lbs. MATRONS, NURSES and others should recommend this delicious tea to their friends and patients. By doing so they benefit two deserving Institutions, as each packet contains a COUPON entitling the LONDON HOSPITAL and the EARLSWOOD ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS to a small donation. To be obtained only from the "SAMARITAN" TEA COMPANY, 5, LONDON WALL AVENUE, E.C.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)