

was not absolutely necessary to invest money, but preference would be given to a lady who would do so.

They questioned me as to why I stated on my cards that I undertook no cases except under medical supervision. I, of course, explained that much harm might result from applying massage in cases for which the treatment was not suitable. Whereupon they stated that at least one medical man would be on the Board. I replied I did not consider this sufficient to give the necessary professionalism. My duties were laid down as consisting of instruction given to assistants in the art of massage, and a superintendence of the giving of electric baths. I suggested that, of course, male attendants would look after the male patients, and was promptly told in that case *they would get no patients at all.*

The younger man was decidedly offensive in his remarks as to the duties of Nurses to their male patients, and professed to be surprised at my statement, that in Hospital, baths are given to the male patients by specially appointed bath men. After a good deal of conversation bearing on this subject, I was then told that they had many applicants for the post, and they seemed to think that the large salary and promises of handsome presents was a sufficient bait for any woman, and that they thought they should have no difficulty in procuring a lady to do all that they wished. I told them that doubtless that was correct, but clearly I was not one who would suit them, and therefore need detain them no longer. I told them I did not know if they were aware how much in disrepute these establishments were in the medical profession, when I was told that a great many of the patients who went in for the treatment were medical men, though probably they would not care for it to be known."

It is very clear from the above narrative that the Nurse was in very suspicious hands, but fortunately for her, she had too much knowledge of the world and too high a conception of her position as a professional masseuse to take the "golden bait" held out by these "massage sharks." We hope to say more on this subject shortly.

### Nursing Echoes.

\* \* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



It is reported that a Conference is to be convened by the Council of the British Medical Association, to discuss the subject of the State Registration of Nurses, in accordance with the Resolution proposed by Dr. Bedford Fenwick, and unanimously passed at the Annual Meeting in July. This is a very wise step, and we hope that a thoroughly representative conference may take place, in which the views of the trained Nurses themselves, on this all important subject, will receive the consideration which is their due.

SISTER M'CURDY and Sister Potts, of Her Majesty's Nursing Service, are to accompany Superintendent Sister Gray in the *Coromandel* sailing on the 7th inst., in connection with the Ashanti Expedition.

\* \* \*  
In the arrangements for medical supplies provision has been made for 35,000 cases of sickness. It will be understood that the term "case of sickness" refers to daily returns, and would embrace a man placed on the sick list for treatment one day and taken off the next.

\* \* \*  
At the Salisbury Infirmary one day last week, there was a large gathering on the occasion of the presentation of badges to the Matron and other members of the Nursing staff. The badges are of three classes, each representing the Arms of the City of Salisbury, with a bar on which is inscribed "Salisbury Infirmary." The badges for the Matron and the Night Superintendent are of silver, the coat of arms being enamelled; those for the Head Nurses are of plain silver; and those for the Probationers of bronze. They will be given to each member of the Nursing Staff on her entry into the service of the Infirmary. All, with the exception of the Probationers, will be required to return their badges upon leaving the Infirmary, but it will be in the power of the Committee of Management, as each case arises, to allow them to be retained permanently. The Probationers, however, who have completed two years' period of training, and have obtained their certificate, will have the privilege of retaining their bronze badge.

\* \* \*  
Now it appears to us that the granting of badges is an excellent idea, and tends to encourage *esprit de corps* and pride in work well done. But there is certainly no merit about a badge which is presented to each Member of the Staff on her entry into the Infirmary. Badges should, like the stripes on the sleeves of our "bluejackets" and police, indicate an acknowledgment of skilful and faithful service, and should, as such, be the property of the Nurse whose good work has brought her the distinction. But as a mere emblem that she is a Nurse, and as a pretty ornament, the real professional significance of the badge is entirely lost.

\* \* \*  
THE *Manchester Evening Mail* makes the assertion that "the Lady-Nurse craze is coming up

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