

racked with that awful rending cough, as they breathed in the coal-dust. I give you my word, sir, that I saw the first lieutenant of that ship, gallant sailor as he was, with the tears running down his cheeks, as he witnessed the piteous sufferings of the men, in spite of all that he and all the rest of us could do. And all for what? To save a few shillingsworth of coal in the Navy Estimates.

The same lack of proper arrangements continued until we were clear of the ship. When we reached Portsmouth there was a special train alongside the quay to convey the invalids to Netley. But not a single man was at hand to help in carrying the helpless patients to the train. The Medical Officers and a few other officers had to buckle to and do this work themselves. The climax was reached when the Staff Officer superintending the disembarkation came up and slanged the Medical Officer in charge who was himself assisting in carrying the patients, because the work was not done quicker, so that the train was an hour late, and the railway company's times would be deranged. It was a fitting termination of the voyage. . . ."

With regard to the improvement of the system the following suggestion is made and seems to be the proper solution of the difficulty. It is that the Invalid Trooping Service should be carried on in a properly-equipped Hospital ship—a floating Hospital, in fact. Such a ship should be properly fitted with swing cots, Hospital kitchens, and all the requirements necessary for the comfort of Hospital patients, and she should have her own staff of medical officers, M.S.C. orderlies, Nursing Sisters, and cooks. But, in addition to this, it is obviously necessary that something in the way of a Hospital train should be provided in India for the conveyance of invalids to the coast. The horrors of the land journey in my correspondent's narrative are scarcely less shocking than those of the sea voyage."

A PARAGRAPH recently appeared in *Truth* commenting on the dismissal of the Sister of one of the wards at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, and stating that an injustice had been done in this case. On inquiry from the officials of the Hospital, we do not see that there is anything unusual or unfair in the circumstances. In fact, the Committee clearly acted in a kind spirit by giving the Sister an opportunity of resigning her position. Failing this, she was given the notice usual in such cases, and the reasons which led the Committee to decide on her dismissal were laid before her. So that it is difficult to see where the grievance comes in.

It would be a monstrous assumption that the authorities of a Hospital have not a perfect right to dismiss an official if they choose to do so. That they are bound at the same time to give a reason which has decided them to take the step, we, of course, concede. But, if a "Sister" does not satisfy the Matron and the Board of the Hospital in which she works, she must make room for a new-comer who will. We have always maintained that the appointment and dismissal of Hospital Sisters should be in the hands of the Committee—and this is the case at Great Ormond Street. It is an open secret that for some time—before the appointment of the present Matron—Great Ormond Street Hospital has been unfortunate in its internal arrangements; that great laxity and want of discipline prevailed. To establish necessary discipline must always create some friction—as in the present case. But the authorities of the Hospital are bound to bring the Nursing and the discipline up to a high standard, even though there may be small unpleasantnesses during the process.

A SERIES of Addresses will be given, during Lent, in the Chapel of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, on Wednesday afternoons, at 4.30.

Wednesday, March 4th.—The Ven. Archdeacon Furse, "The Influence of Personal Character in Work."

Wednesday, March 11th.—The Rev. W. F. H. Randolph, vicar of St. Andrew's, Croydon, "The Worker's Strength."

Wednesday, March 18th.—The Rev. the Hon. John Stafford Northcote, vicar of St. Andrew's, Westminster, "Pain Teaching Love."

Wednesday, March 25th.—The Rev. Herbert Jeafreson, of St. Augustine's, Kilburn, "Reverence towards Children."

At a recent meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, a letter was received from the Local Government Board, asking for an explanation as to why five guineas had been paid for a specialist's opinion with reference to the illness of a Nurse. The Board, in answer, decided that the Clerk should set forth the facts, showing that the reason for calling in the specialist was that the life of the Nurse was in great danger, and a further consultation was absolutely necessary.

While it is perfectly right and proper that all public Bodies should make every provision for sick Nurses under their care, and should afford

CARLSBAD—the renowned Spa in Bohemia—was thronged last summer with patients suffering from all kinds of liver and gouty complaints, who have reaped great benefit from taking the celebrated waters; but it is not sufficiently known that persons unable to visit the Spa can obtain the *natural* Carlsbad Sprudel Salts or Waters at all Chemists, Stores, &c. To distinguish the *natural* salts from artificial imitations, note the names on wrapper of "LOEBEL SCHOTLAENDER, CARLSBAD," and INGRAM & ROYLE, Ltd., Sole Agents, 52, Farringdon Street, E.C.; 19, South John Street, Liverpool; 80, Redcliff Street, Bristol. Pamphlet on application.

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