

While we are extremely glad that such a generous answer has been given to the appeal on behalf of this fine old Hospital, it seems not out of place to remind the Committee of Management that they owe a very serious debt of responsibility towards the public for placing so much money unreservedly in their hands.

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And for this reason we hope that every effort will be made to put every department of Guy's Hospital into most efficient working condition. The Nursing department leaves very much to be desired, and one of the first reforms should be the abolition of the antiquated practice of appointing "lady pupils" to be Sisters, after serving only one year's special probation. With such a system true discipline and skilled nursing are almost impossible. Other improvements could be made in connection with the Private Nursing Institution. Until lately, at any rate, probationers were supplied to the public as fully trained Nurses, before they had completed the three years' training and obtained a certificate. Such a system is unworthy of a Hospital with the reputation of Guy's, and the authorities will find it advisable, now that so much public interest is centred on that Institution, to so order the Nursing that it will bear the fullest scrutiny, and not be found wanting in any detail of modern improvements.

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We are glad to hear that the Guardians of St. Mary's Infirmary, Islington, are doing what is in their power to improve the Nursing department preparatory to moving into a more commodious building. A Night Superintendent is to be appointed, and fourteen extra Assistant Nurses are to be engaged. This additional staff will be greatly appreciated by the Matron, and no doubt the patients will soon benefit by the increase of staff.

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We have been making inquiries concerning the reports of friction at the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum, and as we pointed out last week, find that owing to the desire upon the part of the Medical Superintendent and Matron to inculcate some degree of discipline and reform in nursing matters in this Institution, they are meeting, of course, with the inevitable factious opposition; we hope, however, that they will have the courage to persevere in the good work which they have undertaken, and that they will receive the support of the Guardians of the Poor in their attempt to perform their primary duty, that is, to see that the sick are efficiently nursed.

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We have received the following letter from one

who is deeply interested in this desirable consummation.

"When a Nurse makes such a statement that she left her employment at a moment's notice because her life was made miserable by the head officers, she should condescend to particulars and not confine herself to generalities. It is only fair that the other side of the case should be as publicly known.

Nurse Vokes interviewed the Matron about the beginning of April about having to nurse the Male Lock cases. The Matron quite sympathised with her in her difficulties with some of these patients, but told her as the present arrangements had been in existence so long it required great consideration before a change could be effected, but that she would change her from her ward as soon as she could. Nurse was changed about a fortnight later to the operating ward in one of the new pavilions. The Sister of that pavilion found the Nurse a most trying temper; and as to the patients, although they did not formally complain of her, they would do nothing for her, at last saying that they would not sweep the ward, clean the brasses, or do anything in the ward whatever if it was for Nurse Vokes. That hardly looks like a Nurse beloved by her patients or who is nursing for the love of the work. Just before leaving the other ward she had written a letter to the "Hospital," complaining of having to nurse these cases, and saying that the Matron and medical superintendent saw no cause for alteration in the present arrangements. The Matron sent for Nurse, and told her quite plainly she considered her wanting in loyalty and proper feeling towards the medical superintendent and herself to write such a letter, and after that, and apparently for that reason, Nurse Vokes chose to consider herself a very injured person, saying that the Matron and medical superintendent made her life miserable. The only way in which the latter made her life miserable was that on several occasions he had come to reprimand the Nurse for changing the patients' diets without his orders. On three separate occasions she gave patients tea, beef-tea, and arrowroot when they were not on these articles of diet. The last of these occasions happened the day before she left. The doctor had censured her severely for taking upon herself to interfere in the diets he had himself prescribed; surely a legitimate proceeding on the part of a doctor in charge of wards and the medical superintendent. The Nurse, in a fit of temper, went to her bed, where she remained for the rest of the day, without leave and without reporting herself, until the Matron insisted on her going on duty in the evening. The next morning Nurse Vokes took her money (it was pay day) without saying a word about leaving, and about an hour after informed the Matron she meant to leave at once. All officers and servants of the Asylum are required to sign an agreement form to say they will give a month's notice or forfeit a month's salary. This agreement the Nurse saw no breach of honour or duty in breaking. It need only be added that she left the Asylum unrespected by all right-thinking Nurses and people in it. She was in all respects treated like every Staff Nurse in the building."

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Recalls the Delicious Tea of Thirty Years Ago.

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