

ples of a *passée* and muddled style of housekeeping in the wards—stagnation and depression in Training School methods, and an undeveloped sense of responsibility among pupils. The occasional exception one meets does not, by any means, contradict the general rule.

It is, perhaps, not, after all, strange that Hospital administration should develop a type of man in whom petty characteristics are abundant, even though the intellectual capacity may be excellent. A large part of Hospital administration is simply housekeeping on a big scale, and it has long been known that the pursuit of housekeeping does not tend to make manly men.

It is, therefore, probably natural enough that the qualities of petty tyranny and suspicion, with a lack of magnanimity, should so often be noticed in the man who, as virtual head of a Training School, undertakes the direct control of a large number of women; and that he should display tenacity in dictating upon small matters, such as the way of making a bed, or the hours in which a pupil may go out.

Men of this calibre naturally believe that, in Hospital work, the proper method is to have the woman (head of Nurses) working directly under the authority of the man (head of Hospital), quite ignoring the fact that, if men have in this world their special provinces, so women also have theirs, and that housekeeping and Nursing stand front and foremost among them, and should be independent provinces to the fullest extent compatible with the unity and interests of the Hospital. One would suppose that the multiplicity of duties involved in Hospital management would make a Hospital Superintendent only too thankful to have the department of Nursing lifted from his shoulders, but, just as in private life one meets with men who enjoy directing the household affairs, so in Hospitals it sometimes happens that, to regulate the Nurses and Nursing, is the special interest of the Hospital head: a power which, if he has it, he will rarely give up, and for which, if he has it not, he will continually reach. It is to be hoped that the beautiful and well-endowed Royal Victoria will not allow its Training School management to thus deteriorate, but will maintain the system of Miss Nightingale, which is the mainspring of the most successful Nursing Schools to-day.

Suggested Reforms.

At a meeting of the City of London Guardians, on Tuesday, as reported in *The Times*, the report of the Local Government Board on the recent official inquiry at Bow Infirmary with regard to the management of that Institution, was laid before the Board. The report stated that the Department thought the Guardians should consider whether more direct and continuous supervision might not be secured by the appointment of an Infirmary committee, consisting of not fewer than twelve members, to consider at frequent intervals all matters connected with the management of the Infirmary, and that minutes of the proceedings should be duly recorded. Further, that frequent visits of inspection should be paid for the purpose of seeing reports made by the Chaplain, Medical Superintendent, Matron, and steward. The Department urged

upon the Guardians the desirability of completing their arrangements for a revised scheme of Nursing as soon as practicable, and, in order that that might not be delayed, the Department would consider any proposal the Guardians might desire to submit for the temporary accommodation of the Nursing staff pending the completion of their permanent quarters. The appointment of an Assistant Matron and of a trained night Superintendent of Nurses were matters deserving the early attention of the Guardians, to whom was pointed out the desirability of providing for the discharge of duties outside the Infirmary by special or relief Nurses, so that there might be no longer any necessity for the withdrawal of Nurses from their ward duties. The Department considered that each of the principal officers should report to the Committee direct, but that would not relieve the Matron or Steward of their obligation to acquaint the Medical Superintendent of any matter upon which information might be required, or of any defect in their respective departments. The Local Government Board, in conclusion, observed that from the report of the inquiry the Medical Superintendent appeared to have addressed to the clerk of the Guardians reports of which no copy was entered in his official report book, and which were not entirely consistent with the routine entries in that book. A hope was expressed that in future there would be more harmonious working on the part of the officers, but, should that expectation not be realised, the Department would be prepared to deal with the officer or officers at fault. The report was referred to the Infirmary Committee for consideration.

Inventions, Preparations, &c.

A CURIOUS FACT.

IN a recent article in a contemporary, it was erroneously stated that Messrs. Blondeau, the manufacturers of the well-known Vinolia Soap, consume 1,000 ounces of otto of roses every year. Considering that otto of roses is more than worth its weight in gold, probably many people thought that the writer was romancing. As a matter of fact, however, his statement fell far below the truth. Roughly speaking, this firm's yearly consumption of this golden fluid is about 5,000 ounces! The precious liquid has a strong-room all to itself, wherein it reclines in curious-looking flat flagons swathed in flannel. These flagons are undoubtedly the most valuable in the world. Although less than twelve inches long, and only about six inches in diameter, each of them contains £180 worth of liquid! The same sized flagons, if filled with wine of the rarest and most costly vintage, would not be worth one-tenth of their present value.

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