

months in an Infirmary ward. The method of "training," so-called, is to take copious notes of the lectures listened to, and to reproduce to their own audiences as much of the original lectures as they took down or understood. So that there is a certain uniformity in the hits and the misses they all make. One Lecturer to these pupils misunderstood, creates an error that goes north, east, west and south of the country. Such, for example, the assertion that "*Tea is a valuable form of nourishment*," is one of the misunderstood statements that County Council Lecturers have spread throughout the length and breadth of England. The original lecturer probably said that "tea is a valuable stimulant," or that "a stimulant is a valuable adjunct of food," but by some curious perversity the first and each succeeding class of training-lecturers got down on their notes that "tea is a valuable form of nourishment," and they have spread the announcement far and near.

I am myself always persuaded that these ladies are quite unaware of the mischief they may do. It is an example of the "evil wrought by want of thought." I have often heard them jesting over the mistakes they have made, and the narrow risks of exposure they ran. They thought it good fun.

However, the remedy is at hand. Technical Education Committees are giving up the notion that teaching-classes for women are secular mothers' meetings, where any well-intentioned person will be politely listened to. They are beginning to inquire closely into the record, and the credentials, of the Lecturer who seeks engagements under them. And no doubt, though it must come to pass more slowly, the public will in time become competent to criticise. And as the educational demands of the people become more exacting, a very high standard of qualification will be required from these public teachers, whom we now know under the indefinite title of County Council Lecturers.

### Appointment.

MISS H. A. MARRIOTT has been appointed assistant matron at the General Hospital, Birmingham. Miss Marriott was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and for the last three years has acted as sister of medical wards at the General Hospital, Birmingham. She was one of eighty-four candidates for the post of assistant matron at this hospital. We understand that the appointment has given much satisfaction in the hospital.

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



A "HOSPITAL NURSE" raised a question of interest in a recent issue of this journal "How can the matron of a small cottage hospital, who is single-handed, ever get off duty?" There is only one sensible solution to the difficulty. No matron should ever consent to be "single-handed." In support of this view we quote the introductory remarks of the Hon.

Sydney Holland—who has practical experience of the subject as Chairman of the Tilbury Cottage Hospital—in a most useful little pamphlet he has lately published, entitled "The Furnishing and Appliances of a Cottage Hospital."

Mr. Holland writes:—

"The Tilbury Cottage Hospital for the district, comprising Grays and Tilbury Docks, was the gift of Mr. Passmore Edwards. It was built and opened in 1896, to accommodate eight patients, six in two large wards (three beds in each), and two in two smaller (one in each). The larger wards would well hold four patients. The cost of the building was £2,000, defrayed by Mr. Passmore Edwards. The foundations cost £250, which, with the site, were given by the London and India Docks Joint Committee. The garden was laid out and planted as a gift from Mr. E. Hughes, the president of the hospital. Mr. Rowland Plumbe was the architect. Arrangements are made for a permanent staff of a matron, and one day and one night nurse, an extra room being fitted up for an extra nurse in case of need. Accommodation is provided for two servants in one room, but in working it has been found that one servant can do all the work with outside help for scrubbing."

It may be thought by some that a staff of *three trained nurses is too great for eight beds*. But in visiting cottage hospitals nothing has struck me more than the cruel hours which the nurses are expected to work. I have seen several hospitals where the matron has never been able to go out, even for an hour, for weeks. I have seen one where the nurse is in the wards twelve hours every day of every week. I have seen some where the day and night staff is the same. In fact, night nursing in many cottage hospitals.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)