

for three nurses is provided on the highest landing, together with a sick-room and a servants' bed-room. There are bath-rooms on each floor.

WE have to thank Lady Amherst, of Hackney, and Mrs. S. Bawtree, for donations of £1 rs., and Lady Fletcher for £1, towards the Maintenance Fund of the Nurses' Home of Rest, at Brighton.

SIR JOHN LUBBOCK'S lecture on "Ants" to the Royal British Nurses' Association was a success, as may be supposed of a lecture delivered by one so well qualified to speak. At the same time it must be pointed out that the sessional lectures of the Royal British Nurses' Association have entirely changed their character, as will be seen by the notice of this and subsequent lectures in the *Nurses' Journal*. "Ants," "Egypt," "Afghanistan," "The Recreations of Working Women," are all interesting, but as they are in nowise subjects having a special professional interest for nurses or bearing upon their work, it is likely that the lectures will be more largely attended by the general public than by members of the Association.

FORMERLY the sessional lectures were delivered upon some subject of professional interest, such as legal registration, a uniform curriculum, and so on, and at the close of the lecture a discussion followed during which many valuable opinions and suggestions were elicited. But, now, what nurse can get up and discuss "ants," or of what professional benefit would it be if she did? Probably the only nurses who know anything at all about ants are the few who have lived in the tropics, and there they must wage deadly and unceasing war with these pests if they wish for any peace. For instance, unless the feet of the bread-pan stand in saucers of water, ants swarm in the interstices of the bread. Indeed, residents who, by long use, have become accustomed to this condition, calmly say that "it is no matter; the ants only give a slightly bitter flavour, and are probably of medicinal value," and serenely consume live ants in dozens with their afternoon tea. Again, the safe in which provisions are kept must be suspended in mid-air if it is desired to keep these free from ants; and further the sugar basin must be carefully protected, or it will be found to swarm with them; indeed, the sugar supplied by the local tradesman usually contains a fair proportion of these insects. It will be understood, therefore, that the nursing staff of a tropical hospital are unceasingly waging war with these pests. It is on record that in one such hospital some cold chicken was sent up for the nurses' dinner which was found to be swarming with ants. This was sent down to the kitchen, with a request to the cook to send up something else. In a very short time a savoury stew appeared, but, upon investigation, it was discovered that the same

chicken formed the basis of the stew, and that the ants were still served up, their condition being a moribund instead of a living one.

As a general rule it is found that a special scourge of ants means a dirty corner somewhere. Certainly by having cupboards and corners brushed out every week with paraffin oil they can, to a great extent, be kept down; but perhaps none appreciate the certainty of having food without ants as do those nurses who have worked in tropical hospitals.

FOUR cases have lately come under our notice in which matrons of hospitals, who are inspired by a keen sense of duty and who desire to maintain good discipline amongst their subordinate nurses, have been opposed in the performance of their duty by members of the medical staff, who, having ignored their authority, then proceeded to blame them for the inefficiency of their staffs and complaints of patients. This is grossly unfair, and we hope the smart rebuke lately administered to the Mayor of Glossop in a court of law, will have a deterrent effect upon this peculiarly unjust treatment of responsible officials.

ONE lady, after years of unquestionably good work for the hospital, has been compelled to resign, owing to the combined petty persecution of the medical staff; and a second has sent in her resignation, after a splendid record of six years' work, owing to the insufferable impertinence of the resident medical officer. This young man, the son of a tailor in the town, whose father is an influential member of the Board, persisted in flirtatious attentions to nurses on night duty, joking with the nurses in the ward kitchens when he should have been in bed and the nurses attending to the patients. Good-looking ward-maids also were not beneath his notice, and in the wards of those sisters who upheld rightful authority and discipline, he did not hesitate to converse with the ward-maid on the subject—in one ward going so far as to beam and smile in a killing manner, and bid "good-morrow" to "Mary," and studiously ignore the Sister in charge.

ALL complaints from the matron were met by the Board with an attitude of antagonism—the son of one of their number "could do no wrong." So, unable to support longer an unbearable position, the matron resigned, and we imagine the "yard wand" and "his Mary" reign supreme. And then we wonder where nurses *la mode* are trained!

It is satisfactory to see that the Nursing Committee of the Lincoln Board of Guardians have instituted some much-needed reforms, and that the committee were able to report, at a recent meeting, that of late there had been no waste in the

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