

the invalid, of necessity means the fulfilment of more domestic duties upon the part of the servants. The bicycle, again, requires attention and cleaning, and as it is improbable that the nurse can find time to attend to this detail herself, the extra work thus involved means an unnecessary addition to the household work.

For this reason, we are of opinion that nurses are not justified in taking their bicycles to houses in which it is probable that such work may prove to be troublesome and annoying. Then, again, especially in London houses, there is, as a rule, little accommodation for bicycles, and more than one correspondent has bitterly complained to us that two nurses have arrived with two bicycles, the only place for which was the front passage of the house, and these instruments not only rendered the passage untidy, but almost impassable.

Finally, there are some people who regard the fact of the nurse leaving the sick house for a bicycle ride as somewhat unfitting, and symptomatic of complete indifference on her part to the condition of her patient and his family. For every reason, therefore, but especially on the ground of good taste and expediency, we have always advised that private nurses should never take their bicycles with them, when first sent to a private house. In a few days, they could easily ascertain the views both of the patient and his friends, not only as to the nurse taking bicycle exercise, but also as to the convenience which the house affords for storing the cycle. By the exercise of a little tact, the annoyance and trouble now caused could be easily prevented. Absolute consideration for her patients is demanded from every nurse; yet we have heard of at least one instance in which the patient was so annoyed by the arrival of the nurse, with trunk and bicycle complete, that she refused not only to keep the nurse, but even to have another trained nurse at all.

We have been led to consider the subject this week, because there is an active interest being taken in the matter in Birmingham. According to the local press, many of the nurses in that town cycle during their recreation hours; but at one large Institution they have, it seems, been informed that in future their cycles will not be allowed upon the premises. Our contemporaries consider this "an extraordinary prohibition," and a considerable amount of local feeling appears to have been aroused upon the subject. There certainly would appear to be no reason why

Institution nurses should not be permitted to have this healthful and invigorating exercise; because none of the objections, which as we have shown apply in the case of private nurses, would seem to be applicable to nurses working in public hospitals and infirmaries.

Annotations.

ENTHUSIASM.

Is there anything which is harder to awake than the enthusiasm of women upon matters of public importance? Apparently not, for all women who are really in earnest, and who are working for the welfare of their sex, tell the same story. Why, for instance, have women not got the franchise? The true answer is, because the majority of women are not in earnest upon this subject. If the large proportion of British women felt a sense of burning indignation and shame at being classed by their fathers, husbands, and brothers with lunatics, paupers, and criminals, would those relations have the happy and comfortable time they at present enjoy, while their womenkind are thus degraded? Not at all! They would have no peace until, from the sheer instinct of self protection, if not from a sense of justice, they would obtain for women the privileges which are their undoubted due. We fall back, therefore, upon the conclusion that women remain disfranchised because they do not deserve any other position. As there is this apathy concerning the question of most paramount importance to women, so in all other questions of great moment, though of less importance. Why is the position of trained nurses at present undefined, their practical training erratic, and their education as unregulated as it was thirty years ago? The answer once more must be given, Because the women themselves do not deserve anything else. If nurses had realized their responsibilities, and acted up to them, would their calling be in its present position, would they see the nurses of other nations combining and effecting necessary reforms while they look on inactive? By no means. British nurses have had exceptional opportunities of achieving the organization of their profession, and the fact that other nations are progressing while we are standing still or retrograding is a bitter subject for reflection for those who are imbued with a sense of professional responsibility. The fact remains, however, that while reforms con-

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