

that these matters of detail should receive immediate attention, and it was further resolved that the committee should go over the infirmary in company with the nurse and medical officer, and learn what they considered should be done. This is, so far, a satisfactory arrangement, but structural alterations are somewhat costly. We should advise other committees to consult their superintendent nurse when the plans are being prepared, before they launch out in bricks and mortar!

THE opinion has been expressed that so many girls become hospital nurses because in the middle classes there is no occupation for them in the time which intervenes between school time and marriage, except tennis, and working for bazaars, and this does not satisfy their energies. One contemporary, we observe, considers that there is only one vocation for women eventually, namely matrimony, but this notion is somewhat obsolete nowadays. Many women have definitely decided that matrimony is *not* their vocation, and adopt nursing, not as a stop gap, but as their life work. We wonder also where our contemporary gets its ideas upon nursing matters. "Hospital nursing is fearfully hard work, and we all know that only the very strongest of women can continue at it for any length of time without injury to themselves." In the good old days no doubt this was so, but at present the cry of hospital matrons is, that nursing is made so easy, and hours so short, that it is impossible to get rid of the weaklings, and that the present day nurses have not the "grit" of those who were trained in a sterner school.

THE *Westminster Gazette* remarks:—

"If a man calls in a hospital nurse to tend his wife she would hardly expect to have, as a part of her duties, to coach him in Law. Yet that is what one Mr. Smith actually did, for he made the nurse sit up all night reading the Bankruptcy Act to him because he wanted to become a lawyer.

"The Nurse: But he will never be a lawyer, because he can't learn, and in consequence he tears his hair.

"The Judge: Do you really mean to say that you coached defendant in the Bankruptcy Act?

"The Nurse: I did, sir, all night long. His wife was one of those women who were always ill.

"The Judge: Well, it must be a lively home, what with you rehearsing the Bankruptcy Act and illness.

"The Bankruptcy Act is at best hardly an exhilarating subject. As an interlude to sick nursing it must have been simply intolerable.

THE Annual "At Home" of the Edinburgh City Nurses took place last week, at the Assembly Rooms, George Street, in that city. The guests were received by the Lord Provost, and other Members of the Town Council. Upwards of four hundred ladies and gentlemen were present, half of the number being nurses from the following hospitals:—The Royal Infirmary, the City Hospital,

the Sick Children's Hospital, the Jubilee Nurses Institution, the Longmore Hospital, the Maternity Hospital, the Simpson Memorial, Roswell, Saughton, Mavisbank, and other hospitals. Music and dancing were indulged in, and a very enjoyable evening spent.

THE Sligo Guardians have unanimously appointed three Sisters of Mercy to superintend the nursing in the Hospital of the Sligo Workhouse. It is noteworthy that all the guardians present at the meeting when the appointments were made were Protestants. This is strong testimony to the value of the work performed by Sisters. We hope that the Sisters appointed hold three-year certificates, as required of superintendent nurses by the Local Government Board. No amount of personal devotion can compensate for want of knowledge. The cost of providing the necessary accommodation for the Sisters is expected to be £1000.

THE nursing sisters on plague duty in India, who thoughtfully took out their bicycles, find that they did excellently well for themselves by so doing. A certain amount of exercise is necessary if the nurses are to keep in health, and even "carriage exercise"—a costly item considering the modest salaries of the nursing sisters—is not so exhilarating as a spin on a bike. In spite of the hard work, and the trying conditions, the nurses on the whole keep in excellent health. "We sometimes," says a nurse, "hold little councils of discussion over the sigarees (three legged charcoal burners) as to whether European ladies in India would not be far better in health if they did more domestic work and led more average normal lives." We believe that it is borne out by experience, that in tropical climates an active life is the most healthy, and hospital nurses, despite their exceptionally hard and trying lives, have a record second to none.

A LETTER addressed to the *Times of India*, on the subject of the deaths which have occurred amongst the nurses from plague, pleads for the compulsory inoculation of all who are in attendance on plague-stricken patients, with Haffkine's serum. Personally, we are not in favour of compulsory inoculation. We think that the pros and cons should be put before the nurses, and then they should please themselves. If the authorities were so impressed with the prophylactic value of the serum, that they declined to incur the responsibility of allowing any attendants to enter the plague hospitals who had not been inoculated, the position would be different. But they do not adopt this attitude. On the contrary, they say: "You can be inoculated if you like, but it is not necessary, and we do not recommend it." Presumably responsible officials believe that they have good reason for giving this advice, therefore, while the question of the benefit to be obtained from inoculation still

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