

a remarkably low level. They seriously believe that some ladies, holding high positions in the nursing world, will accept the favour of a nomination from Mr. Edward A. Fardon, M.R.C.S., Resident Medical Officer of the Middlesex Hospital, to seats from which the leading hospital Matrons have been publicly turned out—after those seats were promised them as a permanent right. We imagine that Matrons have not only more common sense, but also more self-respect than Mr. Fardon and his friends credit them with.

Meanwhile, good is coming out of evil, and the Matrons, finding themselves compelled to combine to defend themselves from the deliberate attempts to depreciate and destroy their professional prestige and influence, may be expected to build up a body amongst themselves much more useful to the nursing profession and to the public, and with considerably more influence than will be ever possessed by the little clique of Middlesex Marionnettes.

### Annotations.

#### PROFESSIONAL STATUS.

THE question as to the propriety of emphasizing the position held by Superintendent Nurses in workhouses by a different manner in addressing them, was brought up before the Newton Abbott Guardians at a recent meeting, when the Visiting Committee recommended that the Superintendent Nurse in their institution should be addressed as "Miss" instead of "Nurse." One member of the Board suggested that she should be addressed as "Sister," an excellent suggestion we think. Another guardian "did not see why any difference should be made among the nurses simply because some received more money than others." Dr. Ley put the matter in a nutshell when he stated that "Miss Fisher was the captain of the army of nurses, and should be accordingly recognised." It is manifestly quite useless to appoint a Superintendent of Nurses, and then to refuse to recognise her professional status, and to insist upon placing her upon the same level as the nurses, whose superior she nominally is. Moreover, no self-respecting woman will accept such a position.

#### UNIFORM HATS.

OUTDOOR uniform, whatever may be said of its desirability for nurses working in institutions, is still adopted almost universally by private nurses, and many private nursing institutions require their nurses to wear it when on duty. The necessity, therefore, that the uniform shall be a suitable one is apparent.

Now that the warm summer days are upon us, many maternity nurses are realizing the impracticability of the ordinary uniform bonnet. With an infant in her arms it is impossible for a nurse to hold up a parasol or umbrella, and the hot sun streams mercilessly down, and the glare from dusty roads and pavements beats up, until the unfortunate nurse, her head aching, and her face—if she happens to have a delicate skin—blistered by the heat, feels that she is required to make greater sacrifices at the shrine of conventionality than can reasonably be expected of an average woman. The desire has, therefore, been expressed that maternity nurses, at least, if required to wear uniform, should be allowed to wear hats instead of bonnets, and this appears to us to be a reasonable and sensible suggestion. It only remains for some one with good taste, as well as of a practical turn of mind, to evolve a hat, simple, becoming, and suitable.

#### HOSPITAL MANNERS.

No one who has much experience of English Hospitals can fail to be struck, by the brusqueness, often amounting to positive rudeness, with which casual visitors are received in the various departments. One is forcibly reminded on such occasions of an anecdote recorded by *Punch*, of a conversation between two urchins in a rural village upon a casual passer by. "Who's 'e?" inquired the first urchin. "Stranger," replied the other, laconically. "Stranger! 'eave 'alf a brick at 'is 'ead," at once responded number one. The "stranger" who visits our hospitals, if not actually repelled by a brick bat, not unfrequently leaves impressed by the prevailing discourtesy, which is a very grave discredit to all concerned. We know, for instance, of a distinguished stranger who, having come thousands of miles, and having only one day in London on which she could visit a hospital in which she was particularly interested, was curtly refused admission by the "jack in office" to any of the wards at eleven o'clock in the morning, and had it not been that she was accompanied by a most determined companion, she would have returned to the other side of the world without seeing the hospital, and with the worst possible opinion of the manners of British nurses. We know also of instances in which mothers have taken their daughters to see hospital matrons with a view to putting down their names for vacancies as probationers, and who have been so impressed

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