

Helen Prideaux Memorial Scholarship to Mrs. Hamilton Williams, M.B. The Mackay Prizes have been gained by Miss L. Hamilton and Miss Woodcock.

Mme. Christensen, the fasting lady at the Aquarium, ceased fasting on Monday afternoon on the withdrawal of Mr. M. Bernstem, M.R.C.S., and Dr. Francis, her medical advisers.

She began fasting on September 15th, having abstained from everything except water since that date till three o'clock yesterday, when she partook of extract of meat. She is now holding receptions.

Mr. Bernstem's last bulletin ran as follows:—"I am of opinion that Mme. Christensen, according to the circumstances within my knowledge, cannot prolong her fast without, sooner or later, endangering her bodily, and more so her mental health, and I, after proffering her my advice in this sense, withdraw from attendance upon her while fasting."

It is much to be regretted that qualified medical men and trained nurses took part in this absurd undertaking. Such exhibitions are revolting to good sense and feeling, and we consider it highly objectionable from a professional point of view that trained nurses should be hired out by a private nursing institution for such a purpose.

WE are glad to observe that the London Hospital has raised its fee for the nursing of private ordinary cases to £2 2s., with the proviso that "in certain exceptional cases the fee may be reduced to per week, or portion of a week, £1 11s. 6d."

THIS is only just to nurses trained and certificated at the London Hospital, who desire to do private nursing, and it removes the grievance which certificated nurses, working on the co-operative system, undoubtedly have against charitable institutions, such as our large general hospitals, which pay their private nursing staff a very moderate and inclusive salary, and claim less for their skilled services than a just market value, thereby underselling the trained nurse unattached to institutions supported by the subscriptions of the charitable, and making it almost impossible for these women to work on a just, independent and self-supporting basis.

SEVERAL large hospitals in London still continue to "farm out" nurses, and thus compel them to, in part, support institutions by their earnings which should be supported by the charity of the rich, or by the just support of the rates, and when it is grasped that hard working nurses cannot possibly, under these circumstances, earn enough

to save for an honourable independence in old age, the system must be acknowledged to be cruel and arbitrary in the extreme.

PERSONALLY, we are quite incapable of comprehending the attitude of mind of women, who meekly submit to this wretched extortion, nor can we excuse the lack of generosity upon the part of Committees—composed of men for philanthropic purposes—who justify such gross injustice towards women, simply because they are economically dependent.

UNDER the chairmanship of Mr. Sydney Holland, the London Hospital management is being rapidly humanised. Perhaps we may live to see the day when the London Hospital Private Nursing Institution will be organised on the co-operative principle, when the nurses on its staff will receive their own earnings—less a justifiable percentage for office expenses and management—and when they will be encouraged to manage their own affairs like reasonable human beings, and have official representation on the Committee of the Private Nursing Society to which they belong. Are our hopes too optimistic or are men really as illiberal in their attitude towards working women as they seem?

ANYWAY, we want to see men just towards our sex before they are what they imagine themselves to be—generous. It is a cruel kindness to relieve us of personal responsibility when we are young. Who cares for us working women when we are old? Thousands of grey, haggard and hungry shadows of womanhood—from garret to alley—re-echo that hopeless question. And there is but one answer: Only death is merciful.

ONE hears all sorts of stories in an editorial office. For instance, a medical man complains that a nurse from a well-known Co-operation, after nursing an infectious case, offered to supplement the official disinfection of the room by washing down the window ledges, for which performance she claimed an extra guinea in cash, which the family paid her.

Now it would be very interesting to know how the finances of this Co-operation are managed, as there appears to be some laxity in an arrangement which permits such extortion upon the part of a member. We are informed by a supernumerary nurse on the staff of this society that she takes her own fees, pays the secretary her percentage in cash, and neither signs a ledger nor receives any receipt for the money. We have made inquiries and find that the accounts of this Society are audited by a chartered accountant. It would be interesting to learn how the transactions related above are officially accounted for. As

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