

free of all expense, besides providing the invalids with extra comforts and the services of three skilled lady nurses brought out especially from England. The *Mayflower* completed her work on October 15, after bringing about 140 invalids in three trips, averaging 13 days each, a very creditable performance with the Nile in flood, navigation suspended during the night, and the necessary detention at Cairo for coaling, change of bedding, &c. The sick and wounded were loud in praise of the comfort they enjoyed, and many expressed the desire to have their stay on board prolonged. As General Taylor, R.A.M.C., principal medical officer of the Soudan expedition came down in the *Mayflower* on her last trip, the authorities at home may learn at first hand all that has been done to render the work of the National Aid Society efficient and successful. As the society was prevented by limitations of time and available means of transport from aiding the Egyptian soldiers as well as their British comrades in arms, Colonel Young placed in the hands of the Sirdar £300 to be applied directly for the benefit of Egyptian soldiers who suffered in the recent expedition, and £200 for the purchase and dispatch to Omdurman of articles urgently needed for the proper care of the Dervish wounded.

AND yet, in spite of all this evidence that steamers for the conveyance of the sick soldiers were indispensable, our medical papers repeat week by week that the arrangements for the care of the sick in the late Soudan campaign were "as perfect as perfect could be." In spite of these platitudes we are glad to learn that the dissatisfaction aroused by the omission to send the Army Nursing Sisters on active service is receiving consideration in high quarters, thanks to the *Nursing Record*, and it is very improbable that such a gross piece of mismanagement will be permitted in the future. It should be laid down as a fundamental rule, that where Her Majesty's Army goes there also go Her Majesty's Nursing Sisters.

THE Guardians of the Mile End Infirmary are concerned lest the musical evenings to which the nurses are anxious to invite outsiders should degenerate into smoking concerts, and more than one member of the Board, at a recent meeting, held up as an awful example the manners and customs of the Camberwell nurses in this respect. Eventually the Guardians arrived at a decision which they hoped would suit all parties, and decided to allow the concerts, but to prohibit outside males from taking part in them.

BUT, even so, this does not solve the cigarette difficulty. Indeed, the only way to secure circumspect behaviour on these occasions is, in our opinion, for the Board to request the Matron to be present at the concerts, they will, then, we think, have no occasion to complain of undue latitude.

At a recent meeting of the Burnley Guardians, Mr. Thornber enquired, "Is there a rule in the infirmary to prohibit any nurse (when off duty)

from visiting any other part of the house, or to prohibit any nurse from having any friendship whatever with any of the Board's officers? If so, why?" The clerk said, in answer to the first question, that there was no such rule; the second, therefore, required no answer. The chairman ruled that the subject could not be further discussed unless notice were given, whereupon Mr. Thornber promptly gave notice; so we may expect the subject fully threshed out.

PERSONALLY we are of opinion that it is extremely undesirable that nurses should visit other parts of an institution during their times off duty. (1)—Because it is much better that they should have complete change of air and scene, and (2)—Because though they themselves may be off duty, presumably the persons visited are not, and therefore time is wasted which should be spent by the person visited in the service of the institution. If, therefore, no rule exists at Burnley prohibiting nurses visiting other parts of the house in their hours off duty, the sooner, in our opinion, that one is made the better.

THE correspondence on the "Treatment of Nurses" is still being discussed in the *Glasgow Herald*. We have, of course, the inevitable letter from one of the nursing staff, inspired, we consider, by a mistaken sense of loyalty, hugging abuses to her ascetic bosom. From it we learn that the nursing staff at the Western Infirmary thoroughly enjoy cleaning their bedrooms in off-duty time, and that 13 hours on duty is little enough for these braw Scotch lassies. On the other hand, some of her colleagues fail to see the point of her arguments.

THE truth of the whole matter is that the staff of Nurses at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, is far short of what the number should be, if the patients are to be thoroughly cared for, without over-working the nurses. And this species of economy is prevalent all over the "land o' cakes." An intelligent person has only to study the number of nurses provided per bed in English and Scotch hospitals, to realise the fact that there is great disproportion between the two.

THE Armagh Board of Guardians have been brought up with a round turn by the Irish Local Government Board, and directed to appoint forthwith a trained night nurse: the Armagh Guardians still cling to pauper help.

THE Committee appointed to enquire into the system of nursing in the Naas Union Hospital, have been much taken aback by discovering, from a report which appeared in the Local Press that electric bells have been connected between the wards and the night nurse's apartment. The

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