

Nursing Staff of the Hospital consists of four untrained Sisters, and two trained nurses, one for day and one for night. It is the duty of the night nurse to spend the whole night in the wards, and to visit each ward at least once in every hour. The placing of the bells seems to suggest that the night nurse only visits the wards when rung up by a patient, or by the pauper attendant. The tendency of this system the Committee rightly feel is to bring back in its worst form the system of pauper nursing, which the Board has taken such pains, and been at so much expense to abolish.

They recommend the appointment of a head nurse, to whom the others should be subordinate, and also recommend that the pauper attendants, who occupy much needed space, should be removed, and not allowed to eat in the wards. The appointment of a Superintendent Nurse is certainly a wise and necessary measure.

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WE notice that in the correspondence which our article upon "A Plea for Equality" has evoked, that those of our correspondents who supported our plea have either signed or sent us their names, while on the other hand, those who have expressed sentiments to the contrary, frequently in a manner not very enlightened, and distinctly incourteous, have refrained from sending either name or address. We must therefore reiterate the fact that we cannot insert letters unless the name and address of the sender is given, not necessarily for publication if this is not desired, but as a guarantee of good faith.

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"A NURSING Sister," writing to a Calcutta paper, on the subject of the rules issued in that city for the plague nurses which have caused such wide-spread comment, makes the following remarks:—"Is not a lady nurse as capable as a lady doctor of choosing her friends and her escort? Has she not often a wider knowledge of the world? Is the individual liberty of a lady nurse—of as good, sometimes better breeding than a lady doctor—less precious to her in Calcutta than in London or elsewhere? We are English ladies, and demand equal rights with our sisters in the homeland we have left to help you in your hour of distress, and we decline firmly and positively to submit to the humiliation and the indignity which the whimsicality or peevishness of any lady doctor might subject us to. In hospital we must obey the doctor—male or female. Out of hospital we are free to do as we like—or we will be." There is no doubt that to place the personal control of nurses in the hands of a medical practitioner, whether male, or female, is always a mistake. If one of the Sisters had been selected as the nursing superintendent no doubt the feeling which has been present occasion would have been

The Hospital World.

WHERE PHTHISIS IS TREATED.

THE HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION, BROMPTON.

THE exterior of the Hospital for Consumption, Brompton, on either side of the road, is well known to many people, as it is on one of the direct lines from East to West, but perhaps the majority of passers-by know nothing of the good work which is being carried on within its walls. Journeying down to Brompton one morning, I found myself at the gate of the Hospital, and passing through the grounds, where many patients were evidently enjoying the bright sunshine, I arrived at the Matrons' rooms, and received a most kindly welcome from Miss Davidson, who at once expressed her readiness to show me over the Hospital. The great feature of this Hospital is its corridors, which are warmed and furnished, so that those patients who are allowed up can sit and read and work in them, and also take a certain amount of exercise. Here, also, the patients who are able to do so take their meals. In each corridor I observed a piano, the use of which is much appreciated. The wards, which only contain a few beds in each, open on to the corridors. This arrangement is admirable from the patients' point of view, but, of course, it adds greatly to the labour of the nursing, and to the Sister's work in efficiently supervising the wards under her care.

Each Sister is responsible for the nursing of about fifty patients, and has under her two staff nurses and two probationers. The probationers are trained in this hospital for a year, during which time they have no night duty; they are then sent to a general hospital for a year's training, and for their third year return to Brompton, during which time they take alternate day and night staff duty. Some of the nursing staff have served the hospital for many years, the Sister and nurse on one floor having worked there for twenty-seven years.

A noticeable thing in those of the wards which have polished floors is the arrangement which replaces the usual castors of the beds. Every nurse knows the condition of a polished floor after beds on the ordinary castors have been moved, as is sometimes necessary, not to mention the occasional disaster of holes in the smooth surface of the floor, caused by the leg of a bed on which a defaulting castor has not been immediately renewed. At Brompton Consumptive Hospital, the legs of the beds have been let into little wooden blocks, at the suggestion of the Matron, who brought the idea from the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, where the same system prevails. The shape of the blocks is what one used to learn long ago is the shape of

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