

be interesting to know whether the responsible head of the nursing staff in this workhouse is a trained nurse. It is difficult for one who has never been on night duty herself, to estimate its effect upon some nurses, or the exaggerated and despondent views it often produces. An experienced Matron will carefully watch her night nurses, and obtain a medical opinion should any one of them appear to be suffering from overstrain, and the hours on duty, in the case of all night nurses, should be as short as possible.

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UNDER the present regulations of Workhouse Infirmaries, great latitude is given to officers before their services are dispensed with, and we are the more glad therefore to observe that the Hereford Board of Guardians have acted with firmness in dealing with a nurse proved to have ill-treated one of the aged inmates. When proved guilty of great cruelty, this nurse wished to resign, but with an admirable sense of public duty the Guardians refused to accept her resignation, and summarily dismissed her. This action on their part may, perhaps, save other poor old helpless patients from suffering like treatment. As the scarcity of trained nurses for country infirmaries is now a serious matter, it is to be feared that many women totally unsuited for the care of the sick poor obtain posts, for which they are utterly unfit.

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THE question as to what constitutes a suitable operation room is one which is somewhat widely discussed at present, as of recent years so many improvements, both in the arrangements of the room itself, and also with regard to fittings and appliances, have been made, that considerable alterations are necessary in order to bring the older theatres up to date. There is no doubt that the ideal general theatre should be at the top of the building, where the best light is obtainable, but it is also highly desirable that operating rooms should be provided on each surgical and gynæcological floor, so that the necessity for taking patients up and downstairs in a lift may be removed, and that as sometimes even happens in large institutions, the need for carrying them from block to block, in the open air, however inclement the weather, may be avoided. Each operating room should have attached to it an anæsthetic room, and the patients should always be taken into the operating room when unconscious. Few things can be more gruesome to a patient than to have to enter, in full possession of his senses, the room in which the full paraphernalia for the coming operation is set out, and, in a well-appointed hospital, he should not be subjected to such an ordeal. The floor, walls, and ceiling of an operation room

should be of some material easily washed, and the corners rounded. Electric light should be installed, and, in an ideal theatre, the cupboards should certainly be sunk in the walls, the doors of the former being flush with the latter. Glass tables, and shelves for lotions, and china washstand basins should complete the furniture. Of what material should the seats for the accommodation of students be made? We are inclined to think that marble or stone, which is now sometimes used, though eminently cleanly, would be somewhat cold. The students of those hospitals where marble seats have been introduced might perhaps offer an opinion on this subject.

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THE Duchess of Buccleuch and the Ladies Katherine and Constance Scott visited the district training home of the Scottish branch of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, 29, Castle Street, Edinburgh, one day recently. Dr. Joseph Bell (chairman) received them, with Miss Butter (convener of the house committee) and Miss Guthrie Wright (hon. secretary). They went over the home and saw the nurses, especially those engaged for Thornhill and Dumfries.

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NEWS comes to us from Miss Sarah Woodbine, a native of Buenos Ayres, of whose courageous action in coming to train in this country we gave an account a short time since, that she has obtained a post as Sister at the Princess Christian Hospital, Sierra Leone. She sailed last Saturday to take up her new duties, and has our heartiest good wishes for her success and happiness in her work. She writes: "As it is really due to you I should like to have seen you once before going, but I sail on Saturday, so have no time. I will write to you again when I get there." We shall look forward with much interest to further news of Miss Woodbine. The fact that she has obtained this post by the publicity given to her desire, for a more responsible position, in the *NURSING RECORD*, is a proof of the value of a professional journal to nurses.

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WE hear also that the portrait which we published of Miss Woodbine, as well as the account of her career, occasioned the liveliest interest amongst the natives training in the Zanzibar Hospital. The picture was put up by one of the nurses in her room, and she had to tell the story over and over again.

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THE American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools, and the National Associated Alumnae of Nurses are to be invited to hold their

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