

urged to issue an order directing that Matrons should have no jurisdiction in infirmaries, but that the Superintendent Nurse should exercise paramount authority. The friction arose through the Superintendent Nurse holding the reins a little tighter than they had heretofore been held, and the manifestation of her desire and determination to put everything in the infirmary without delay on an up-to-date basis. It sometimes happens that where there is a want of tact, reforming zeal, like vaulting ambition, overleaps itself. However, no one was prepared to say that the Superintendent Nurse was more strict and zealous than she ought to be."

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It appears that the Superintendent Nurse complains of having been treated by the Matron in a manner likely to lessen her authority and influence in the discharge of her professional duties, but she adopted the impossible position of declining to have the complaint thoroughly gone into. The Committee, therefore, naturally decline to say whether or not the Matron has interfered with the nursing arrangements of the Infirmary. They content themselves with expressing regret that in the course of the inquiry it was made clear that the spirit and temper displayed both by the Matron and the nurse could not but be fatal to the harmonious working of the house.

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As in the opinion of the Committee, as well as in the judgment of the Master, the cooking of the food, and the soiled linen are two of the matters occasioning most difficulty in the Infirmary, the Committee have recommended the "appointment of a suitable woman to cook and list the linen for the laundry." The combination of the two offices scarcely seems a happy one. As regards the linen used in the Infirmary, we imagine that the nurses should be responsible for listing it.

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THE heat of the last month has brought home forcibly to those who work in English Hospitals the difficulties under which those of their colleagues labour who work in the tropics. The aching feet, and weary heads, the lassitude, the disinclination for work, are not a matter of a month or two's duration, but all the year round, nurses who work in hot climates have to pull against the stream, to constantly brace themselves up for work, and to fight against the lassitude which steals over the most energetic after prolonged residence in the tropics.

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AND this feeling, the case in all hot countries, is intensified when, to the heat, is added unhealthiness, when the poison of malaria

circulates in the system, and constant attacks of fever paralyse the energy of the most active, and break down the nervous system. Added to this is the constant irritation of prickly heat, the torment of which is inexplicable to those who have not suffered from it, while to those who have, no explanation is needed, and added to this must be taken into consideration the ulcers, occasioned usually, in the first instance, by mosquito bites, and most difficult to heal, owing to the low vitality of the tissues; and, most trying of all, the boils which, originating below the superficial fascia, are most exquisitely painful.

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AND yet, in spite of all, tropical nursing has a fascination for those who have once experienced it. And it has its alleviations also. The work and the habits of life are arranged to suit the climate. For instance, work begins early, after a cup of tea and some light refreshment. Then comes breakfast, on a verandah, not in a close room, thick with the odours of cooking. Work goes on till twelve, and then comes tiffin, and a siesta for all except the nurses on duty, who take their turn later. The off-duty time is taken in the cool of the afternoon, when very likely a drive or a boating expedition is enjoyed; dinner again on an open verandah, at 7 o'clock, and then, what is more enjoyable than to spend an hour or two on the flat roof of the hospital, revelling in the glorious tropical moon, the feathery palms, the under-sides of the leaves which form their graceful crown, silvered by the moonlight, standing out clear as in the day against the brilliant sky, studded with stars, in which the Southern Cross shines clear, or, nearer earth, to watch the tiny fire flies, and to inhale the mingled odours of orange blossom, frangipani, and other sweet-smelling flowers. Verily life has its compensations!

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NURSES will do well to note a legal decision recently pronounced in Belgium. A private nurse administered a poisonous liniment to a patient in mistake for a medicine. The patient died, and his widow brought an action against the nurse for damages. It was proved at the trial that the nurse was in the habit of taking too much stimulant, and it was held in consequence that her action was "culpable," as by her own fault she was in a condition in which she was incapable of performing her duty. She was ordered to pay damages to the widow, who by her husband's death lost her sole means of support, and the entire sum of her savings in the bank, amounting to about £200 was paid over to the widow as compensation for her "culpable neglect."

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