

her the landlord widower falls in love, and "the younger sister reluctantly accepted the offer of a new way to pay a heavy debt, which, assuredly, the rich landlord would not otherwise have cancelled."

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AND so on, *ad nauseam*. Mr. Gant must not be surprised if the nursing profession resents his caricatures and expresses itself somewhat strongly. "Why doesn't he write about 'Satan in Trousers,'" said a nurse, indignantly, the other day, "there are many more black sheep in the medical than in the nursing profession, as we all know."

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MR. GANT, however, evidently prefers to draw a veil over the shortcomings of his own profession and to attack a kindred one. There used to be a good old-fashioned sentiment that it was cowardly in a man to hit a woman, but "the old order changeth, giving place to new," and now it is apparently quite *en regle*.

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WHAT would the medical press say if a nurse ventured to attack the medical profession, on Mr. Gant's lines, in a nursing publication? There would be an outcry in every medical paper in the kingdom, the whole force of the Conjoint Colleges, and the General Medical Council would overwhelm her, and we do not doubt that questions bearing on her unpardonable behaviour, and holding her up to public opprobrium, would be asked in the House.

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AH well, Mr. Gant is welcome to any notoriety which he may achieve by his articles. Personally, we do not think that they will bring him imperishable fame.

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IN the Annual Report of the Huddersfield Infirmary we read: "With much regret the Board have to report the resignation of Miss Jones, who for nearly ten years faithfully acted as Matron of the Institution. During the whole of that time she endeavoured to further its interests, and her courtesy and kindness won her the esteem and friendship of everyone connected with it. In retiring from her responsible charge, she carried with her the personal esteem and the best wishes of the individual members of the Board and of all the officials. The new Matron, Miss Mackenzie, very highly recommended, has entered upon her duties. The Board believe that she is well fitted for the post to which she has been elected, and they bespeak for her the cordial co-operation of all her fellow-workers and all friends of the Infirmary."

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A RESIDENT in Barnsley writes: "I was indeed glad to see your paper with the notice about

Barnsley Workhouse Infirmary, as things are very bad, and require reform. It is impossible to keep good nurses in the Institution, especially on night duty; and no wonder, when you realise that there is only one night nurse for eighty patients, and the day nurses have cruelly long hours on duty. They are expected to be on duty at 5.45 a.m., and not off till 8 p.m., except once a week from 6 till 9.30 p.m., and on Sunday, once a fortnight, from 6 till 9.30 p.m., the night nurse from 9 till 12 a.m. I hear that the food is insufficient, and of the very coarsest quality, and the nurses' rooms of the most meagre description. Apparently, the Guardians permit almost entire power to the Master and Matron, and everything is half-a-century behind the times, so that it is useless for the nurses, who are powerless, to try and raise the tone of the place, which is very bad. I do not know whether it is permitted in other infirmaries, but the poor old dodery women carry out the dead from the female wards, and carry helpless women patients on stretchers, and bad language is common. You have pointed out so often, in the NURSING RECORD, how impossible it is for trained nurses to work satisfactorily under the authority of ill-educated, unprofessional Matrons, and as at Barnsley the Matron gives the patients to understand the nurses have no right to interfere with them, discipline is quite impossible. I wonder how long it will be before the Local Government Board will make an effort to organise a reformed system in these Workhouse Infirmarys. The present "system" is impossible, the obsolete arrangement of an uneducated married Master and Matron must be swept away. Why should not these institutions, like our prisons, be under the control of gentlemen, and the Matron be a trained nurse? No doubt this would soon be done if women had seats on the Local Government Board as they should have."

We endorse every word of this letter from other sources of information.

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MISS BARWELL, who until recently has held the position of Matron of the Bromsgrove Cottage Hospital, has been presented with a cheque and other gifts subscribed for by old patients and friends of the Institution.

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THE Bangkok Nursing Home, which was opened in March, 1898, has published its first Annual Report, from which we learn that 35 indoor patients and 17 outdoor patients have been attended by trained nurses, and that it is owing in a large measure to the careful nursing so provided that many valuable lives have been saved. Her Majesty the Queen of Siam has contributed 4,000 ticals to the funds of the Institution.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)