

Infirmery, gives each of these pupils a gratuity of £2 for the first and second year of satisfactory service. This savours more of the domestic servant than of the professional woman.

\* \* \*

By the way, "the lady recommended by the Infirmery Visiting Committee to the Board for the appointment will be required to be medically examined by a medical man, to be chosen by the said Committee." This is an additional ordeal for selected candidates.

\* \* \*

THE Scarborough Guardians have recently appointed a Superintendent Nurse. Three names, those of Mrs. Annie Ellis, Miss Margaret Jane Hamilton, and Miss Annie Louisa Lench, having been suggested by the House Committee, the Board appointed Miss Hamilton by 29 votes to 13 for Miss Hamilton, Miss Lench's name not having been submitted to the vote. Miss Hamilton, on being called into the room and informed of her success, declined to accept office, on the ground that the Infirmery was understaffed. The Board then unanimously appointed Mrs. Ellis, but she, too, declined office on the same ground, much to the surprise and annoyance of the Board. Miss Lench was then called in, and asked if she would accept the position if appointed. She signified her willingness to do so, and was unanimously elected.

\* \* \*

WE hope that this lady realizes that, unless she intends to institute at once radical reforms in the organization of the nursing department at the Scarborough Infirmery, that she accepts a very grave responsibility in making herself answerable for the efficient care of the sick with an inadequate staff.

\* \* \*

It is stated by a contemporary that "among nurses a strong desire exists to transfer their services to South Africa." This is a fact of which there is no doubt, but we must own to some scepticism as to the methods, which, it is stated, nurses adopt in order to "go to Table Bay."

\* \* \*

"A FAVOURITE ruse," we are told, "on their part is to don male attire and masquerade as 'absent-minded beggars,' or any other form of humanity except their own. A few weeks ago, in Norfolk, a young lady thus disguised was found *en route* to Africa, and promptly transferred to her friends. A similar incident has now taken place at Bournemouth. The police there received information from Bath that a young lady had left her home suddenly, and as it was conjectured that

she might make her way to Bournemouth a sharp look-out was kept at the railway station. The other evening Sergeant Philpot noticed, on the arrival of the Somerset and Dorset train, that a stylishly-dressed 'youth' stepped on to the platform. The young man, who stumbled as he left the carriage, was well dressed, wearing a deep upright collar and bright necktie, and a double watchchain across his waistcoat. However, the newcomer was somewhat dismayed when requested to go to the police-station, where the young man turned out to be the missing girl. She had cropped her hair closely, but had preserved her tresses in a small box she was carrying. Her parents were communicated with, and she has since left for home again, accompanied by her father. It is stated that the young lady, who is only about sixteen years old, left home because she wanted to go to South Africa as a nurse, a step to which her friends objected."

\* \* \*

WE may point out that young ladies of sixteen are not certificated members of the nursing profession. To achieve this they would have to enter a hospital for training at the age of thirteen, when most girls are in short frocks in the school-room; further, that the usual age limit for probationers is twenty-three. The "stylishly dressed youth" was, therefore, not a nurse, but a girl with more patriotism than discretion.

\* \* \*

WE have received, for the Nottingham Bazaar, a charming dolly, as well as a china serviette ring, a key suspender, and some woollen caps and shoes for dolls. The post mark is Taunton, but there is no indication in the parcel as to who is the sender. We should, therefore, be much obliged if the kind donor will communicate with us, as we should like to know to whom we are indebted for this response to our appeal.

\* \* \*

THE conduct of Mrs. Hird, a nurse, of Scarborough, is worthy of some public recognition. On visiting a patient whom she was nursing, Mrs. Hird found the house full of smoke. Promptly raising an alarm, she rushed to the patient's bedroom, carried her downstairs, then returned for the baby that had been born the day before, and took both to a place of safety. The fire brigade speedily extinguished the fire, which was caused by a little boy setting alight some straw in a top room. It is satisfactory to know the mother and child are none the worse for their hasty removal.

\* \* \*

WE should like to know whether the nursing profession can claim Mrs. Hird as a colleague, or whether she was acting as a monthly nurse, and

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)