

refused attendance. The Committee then sent a deputation to ask Mr. Gilbert, the Secretary Superintendent of the Hospital, the reason for the refusals, and the only reason assigned was that Miss Beatty might be likely to prove a very litigious person. The meeting decided to write to the Management Committee of the Hospital asking them to rescind the resolution in their books against Miss Beatty.

WE sincerely hope that the Committee of the West London Hospital will speedily rescind this very injudicious resolution, which should never have been passed by men entrusted with the management of a charitable institution. We are of opinion that, if a trained nurse is refused admittance to a hospital because she has taken legal proceedings against a medical man, such intolerant and partisan proceedings merit the severest condemnation on the part of those who support these institutions for the benefit of the sick.

MISS BEATTY complains that, since her case in Court, she has been systematically persecuted in professional circles. The fact that such a resolution has been placed upon the minutes of a public hospital goes far to convince the unbiassed that she has just cause of complaint.

THE public, and even the medical profession, do not even yet see the danger to the general health which occurs when persons suffering from infectious diseases travel by public conveyances. Recently a lady, residing at Balham Hill, was summoned at the South Western Police Court for having exposed her servant, Ellen Horn, in a public place, and for placing her in a public conveyance when suffering from diphtheria. The girl, being ill, was sent by her mistress, with a fellow servant, to see a doctor, who certified her to be suffering from diphtheria and advised her being sent to a fever hospital. The servants returned and reported the opinion of the medical man, upon which the mistress gave them five shillings and suggested that they should go to the hospital. Upon their arrival there, the house surgeon directed that the cab should be disinfected. In the course of the evidence, Dr. Maclean admitted that his partner, who had since left him, suggested that the woman should travel outside a tram-car. He did not dissent from that view, but he did say that the patient must not get into a cab. He also "said something about an ambulance." In reply to a question from the magistrate, Dr. Maclean said that he would not feel himself in any great peril if he found himself on the roof of a tram-car with a person suffering from diphtheria. These being the publicly

expressed opinions of a medical man, it is not surprising that there should be laxity on the part of the public with regard to infection. The magistrate decided that the mistress was not in charge of the servant, and dismissed the summonses, without costs. It is to be regretted that he did not add a rider that it is the duty of all persons suffering from infectious disease to be removed in an ambulance.

GENERAL regret will be felt that Miss F. L. Hay Forbes, the able Matron of the General Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, has resigned her post, as family affairs require her attention. During her tenure of office, Miss Hay Forbes has done much to improve the nursing of the hospital which, at the request of the Committee, she entirely re-organized when appointed Matron in 1890, and some years since, the three years' standard of training was adopted. There are, however, many difficulties in the way of nursing progress, as is often the case in small provincial towns where nursing matters are little understood. We understand that one of the chief hindrances to the efficient working of the hospital is that the present accommodation and arrangements both for patients and nurses are inadequate to the present need. Naturally, the work of such an institution increases greatly as it becomes better known, and both medical and nursing progress have been so great during recent years that both medicine and nursing must move with the times, and buildings must be improved to meet modern requirements if an institution at the present time is not to become hopelessly obsolete and inefficient. We understand that the Tunbridge Wells Hospital is at present passing through a crisis, so that a change as regards the Superintendent of Nursing just now is doubly to be deplored. Unfortunately, as is so common at such seasons, a personal element has been introduced into the controversy, but the Committee and Governors are doing all in their powers to meet the wishes of the public, and to afford a full enquiry into alleged errors in the management of the Institution. This being so, it may be hoped that necessary improvements will be carried out in a liberal spirit.

FROM the report presented to the subscribers of the Sussex County Hospital at Brighton, we learn that;—"The Nursing Institute continued to be largely used. There were 22 nurses on the staff. The receipts during the year were £1,480 4s., as against £1,431 10s. 3d. last year. The expenditure, £1,380 4s., included £255 2s. 1d. shared as a bonus among the Matron and nurses; £100, as usual, being carried to the general account."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)