

THE nurses of the East London Nursing Society are doing excellent work under difficult and uncongenial surroundings, as was demonstrated at the annual meeting held under the presidency of the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House last week. Amongst other speakers was the Rev. R. R. Dolling, who pointed out the need, not only for an increase in the funds of the Society, but also in the number of nurses employed. As there are only 29 nurses, who, between them, nursed 5,306 patients and paid 120,022 visits, this fact is incontrovertible.

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In an interview with a representative of the press, the Matron of one of the Nurses' Homes said, with a sigh, "I wish we could pay larger salaries, and so allow the staff to take full advantage of their holidays."

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This opens up a point worthy of consideration. Is it right to expect nurses to work for salaries out of which it is impossible for them to make any provision for the future, and extremely difficult to save enough to take the sorely needed holiday necessary if their strength is to be maintained for their work. The labourer is worthy of his hire. As there is a Royal Princess, not to mention three Duchesses, on the Committee of the East London Nursing Society, they might with advantage make it their business to see that the salaries of these hard-working nurses bear some sort of proportion to the value of the work performed. Here is legitimate scope for the activities of Society women.

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Now that the subject of the summer holiday will have to be considered in the near future, the various merits of different places are freely canvassed in nurses' sitting rooms. When we have only one holiday in the year, we want to make the very best of it. A booklet recently published by the Great Eastern Railway Company, by Percy Lindley, describing inexpensive holidays in Flanders and the Ardennes, should be procured by nurses who are thinking of crossing the Channel for their annual outing. It contains many illustrations, which give a good idea of the delights in store for those who elect to visit this charmingly picturesque country.

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At the Annual Meeting of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, the sum of £100 was voted to the late Lady Superintendent, Miss Adam. It was stated that Miss Adam had been Lady Superintendent of the Institution for twenty-three years, and had never received an increase of salary.

THE Scarborough Guardians are once more in difficulties, two more nurses having resigned. On their resignations being announced, a member of the Board asked if a communication received last week from the Local Government Board with reference to these nurses had anything to do with their resignations. He asked the question because the public were interested in the matter of nurses continually resigning, and he thought if there was anything in favour of the Board in connection with the matter it should be made known. The Chairman said he did not suppose the nurses were aware of the nature of the communications the Clerk had received from places (which had been mentioned by the Local Government Board) in reply to inquiries which had been made, but he would say that if, after receiving the communications, the nurses had not sent in their resignations, they certainly would have had notice given them to leave. The total sum spent by the Board in advertising and in paying nurses' travelling expenses, from May, 1899, to March, 1900, was £55 11s. 11d.

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At the annual meeting of the Essex Cottage Nursing Association held last week, it was stated in the report presented by Dr. Thresh, "that selected women of the cottage class, can be trained in six months sufficiently to render them capable of nursing the great majority of cases, and of carrying out intelligently the orders of the medical attendant."

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It is to be regretted that Dr. Thresh, who appears to some extent to appreciate the services of trained nurses, should support such a very inadequate term of training. The nursing profession is endeavouring to raise its standard, to equip its members satisfactorily for the responsible work demanded of them, but, unfortunately, they again and again are met by ill-advised action on the part of medical men, who publicly support even such a low standard as that of the six months' qualification. If these women were called "cottage helps," we should have nothing to say, but to call them "nurses" is inevitably to lower the standard of nursing generally. What would Dr. Thresh say if it were publicly asserted that a man could, in six months, be trained to give all the medical help necessary in the great majority of cases?

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One of the women attendants in the District Lunatic Asylum, Omagh, recently resigned her post after holding it only a few days. The reason that she gave for doing so was that no piano was provided for her to play upon.

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