

speak to several gentlemen, one of whom gave her some money. He then went up to her, and asked her if she was a nurse, and she replied in the affirmative. He then told her that he had seen her beg and receive money, and he should take her into custody. She indignantly denied it, and told the constable that he was altogether mistaken. Asked where she lived, the uniformed lady replied, "I reside in Hyde Park Mansions," but when further pressed she was fain to confess that she had no abode in that aristocratic region, and that, in fact, she had no home at all. Beyond this she would give no information as to who she was or where she came from. Before Mr. Bennett she still persisted that she was not begging, and asked if, as the constable had stated, he had seen her solicit and receive money, how it happened that only one penny was found in her possession when searched at the police-station. She was remanded for a week for inquiry.

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THE latest addition to the tortoise family at the Zoo owe their comfortable quarters to a trained nurse. It was in this way, says the *Daily Mail*:—"A tender-hearted nurse went out to the war. When the worst was over she returned, filled with compassion for everything that lives and suffers. One day, as it fell out, she visited Mr. Whiteley's, in Westbourne Grove, and there she saw two tortoises. They also had come from a sunny south land. But they were exiles, as she had been. They were cut off from their base; their commissariat was terribly disorganised; they seemed likely to lack the common necessities of tortoise life; their hospital arrangements were miserably inadequate. Her heart went out to those tortoises. She could bear it no longer. She resolved to mend their lot or to end it. So she bought them and presented them to the Zoo."

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At the last meeting of the Camberwell Guardians there was a motion to rescind a resolution which stipulated that the appointment of nurses should be contingent on their willingness to publicly recite in the wards a form of prayer arranged by the chaplain of the Board, and that in future appointments to the nursing staff be not dependent upon willingness to recite in public any set form of prayers or upon belonging to any particular religious body. The resolution to rescind was carried by 10 votes to 9.

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PERIODICALLY letters appear in the *Irish Times*, protesting against the scale of salaries paid to private nurses in the Emerald Isle. These protests do not seem uncalled for—if it is true that some institutions only pay members of their

nursing staff from £15 to £20 a year! But can this scale of pay be in force in Ireland? It appears impossible. We are well aware that many of the Irish families who employ private nurses, cannot possibly afford to pay the metropolitan price of £2 2s. or £3 3s. a week, and the sorry consequence of this comparative poverty is that many Irish hospitals still only give a two years' instead of a three years' period of training.

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It is an old saying that one must cut one's coat according to one's cloth—the argument being that, if the public cannot afford a "living wage" for nurses, cheap nurses must be provided. We are not inclined to agree with this argument, because it appears that in Ireland the middle men—in the shape of central nursing institutions and hospitals—reap a certain amount of income from the labour of their nurses. We should at once tackle the middleman, and having squandered him, and having brought capital and labour together, believe that *both would benefit by the change*. Say the Irish public are prepared to pay £1 1s. or £1 10s. for a nurse—let the money be paid to her direct. If the nurse, after having paid when out of cases for her board, lodging, uniform, etc., finds herself at the end of the year better off than when receiving a small and regular salary, with no out-going expenses between cases, she will be justified in taking her own fees. If, on the other hand, she is a loser—owing to the low rate of remuneration in Ireland—she will be glad to again become a salaried worker.

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We cannot think that any sum under £2 2s. a week can place the private nurse in a satisfactory financial condition. The rate of living is constantly becoming higher in Great Britain, and we do not wonder at trained nurses hesitating to risk dearly bought independence at the cost of constant anxiety, if she cannot obtain this sum.

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Two nurses well known in Bangor, Nurse Dean, and Nurse Bettany, who have recently left the town, have been presented with some valuable gifts by their friends and former patients. Nurse Dean received a beautiful writing-table and an illuminated address on vellum, and Nurse Bettany a gold watch and chain, with a similar address. The address states:—"This address and the gift were presented to the nurse, on the occasion of her severing her connection with the Nursing Institute at Bangor, by her friends and well-wishers in the city, as a token of their esteem and regard, and to mark their high appreciation of her devotion to duty during the many years she so faithfully and efficiently ministered

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