

MOREOVER, one fool brings an infinity of disrepute upon as fine a body of women workers as exists in the world, the hard working, unselfish hospital Matron, and all are condemned indiscriminately by the public for the faults of the few. It was ever thus.

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AND now for a personal note. An Editor lives a busy, buzzing life. Much finds its way to her study which does not appear in print. An Editor must acquaint herself with things as they are, not as they appear (even in print). In this métier she has opportunities of judging of facts; and in reference to "hospital manners," she could wish that some of our London Hospital Secretaries—poor things—had time to answer official letters, or that their parents could have afforded that "extra tuppence" in return for which their progeny might have acquired the rudiments of common courtesy which prompt a person—much less a responsible official of a public institution—to acknowledge official communications, even if he is too overworked to answer them!!

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JACK in office is, however, quite the exception in the hospital world now-a-days, and seems to have died out altogether in those institutions governed by men directly representing the subscribers. Let the Committee of the Prince of Wales' Fund look to it, that in subsidising certain institutions with thousands of pounds, it does not raise up and maintain in office a class of official independent of wholesome public criticism, and disdainful of the guinea subscriber, whose contributions are, after all, the safest basis for the financial security of hospitals supported by voluntary contributions.

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It is still only a few years since Miss Linda Richards, one of the most esteemed Superintendents in the United States, went to Japan and organized the first Training School for Nurses. The seed then sown has borne fruit abundantly, and we feel sure Miss Richards will read with great pleasure the exhaustive account which has recently appeared in the *Times*, describing the medical and nursing services in Japan. While good work is never lost, it is not everyone who lives to see the fruit of her labours.

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THE hospital service of the Japanese army was the subject of careful examination by European—especially English—medical experts during the war with China in 1894-95. It elicited many eulogies at that time, and it was again brought under conspicuous notice during the recent campaign in Chi-li, the result of foreign

observation on this second occasion being still more creditable. It has long been recognized that the Japanese have a special faculty for surgery, their remarkably supple hands and imperturbable nerves being an excellent equipment for that work. In the field of medical investigation, too, they are beginning to make their mark. Returns just published by the 15 contagious disease hospitals of Tokio for the five-year period 1895-99 show that Dr. Kitasato's new method of treating dysentery by serum inoculation has been so successful as to reduce its maximum death-rate from 55 to 12.5, and the minimum from 22.5 to 8.5. That is not by any means Dr. Kitasato's only contribution to the science of healing, but it is a contribution of great importance to Japan, where the deaths from dysentery every year have hitherto averaged 24,000. With regard to the Army Medical Service, the standard of high organization attained in other military departments seems to be fully reached, if not surpassed. There is a full staff of medical experts and nurses; materials are supplied with great promptitude; all the latest improvements in matters of surgery, nursing, and sanitation have been introduced, and the methods adopted for affording relief to men in the fighting line, as well as for managing bandaging stations, field hospitals, standing hospitals in the enemy's territory, and army hospitals, appear to be almost perfect. For use in the Chi-li campaign two principal hospitals were organized, a standing hospital in Tien-tsin and a reserve hospital in Hiroshima, where the headquarters of the division engaged were situated. Many vessels of the flotilla plying on the Pei-ho for commissariat purposes between Tien-tsin and Tung-chau were provided with surgical equipment, so that the wounded could be placed on board immediately and transported to Tien-tsin. On arrival at the latter place, the serious cases were taken finally into hospital there, while those that could bear the voyage back to Japan were, after suitable medical treatment, placed on board a transport steamer or a hospital ship of the Red Cross Society. The Red Cross Society of Japan is a very flourishing institution. Its list of subscribers contains nearly 700,000 names, and its annual income is 2,000,000 yen. It has hospitals in the chief cities, that in Tokio being especially fine, and it possesses a large staff of trained nurses, male and female, who in times of peace are at the service of the general public. The Japanese woman makes an admirable nurse. She has been criticized by some foreigners for lack of resolute initiative, and the criticism is probably just where there is question of dealing with the "masterful Occidental." But she shows no want of resolution in the presence of patients of her own

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