

Suppose she were to be taught that her duty and loyalty were to be, first, to truth and justice as living principles. This understood, it becomes unnecessary to reiterate these cautions about being loyal to the doctor. Naturally, she will be loyal to him; why not? Not only is it to her interest to be so, but, presumably, truth and justice will exact it, in nine cases out of ten. Yet it is quite possible to imagine that in the tenth case there might be circumstances which would make it wrong for her to obey and remain subordinate to the doctor, just as it might be wrong for a doctor to uphold the nurse. According to justice and truth, her loyalty might be due not to the doctor, but to the patient. Or, not to either of these but to the patient's friends. Or, away from them all and to the public.

There is an obedience which is slavishness, and a subordination which is moral cowardice. But how is one to draw the line? It is a delicate subject, and requires a great deal of knowledge, True. It requires a knowledge of our obligations and duty to all classes of people, not only to one class."

If we follow out the line of thought indicated by Miss Dock it will help us in the solution of many difficult problems.

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SHOULD nurses accept "tips" from their patients? This question is one which is raised by the Rev. Walker King, in the *Bridgewater Independent*, and is of some interest, for it is one upon which differences of opinion exist in the nursing world. Some private nursing institutions and co-operations prohibit nurses from receiving any presents whatsoever. By others the custom is recognised as justifiable.

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We incline to the opinion that no hard and fast rule can be laid down on the matter, which must be determined, to a great extent, by the sense and taste of the nurse concerned. In some cases, where patients can well afford it, and are desirous of giving proof of their gratitude to the nurse the kindness may well be accepted, and the transaction will not only be a pleasure to the donor, but a pleasure to the nurse. Under circumstances where the expense of a nurse's services are a consideration, she would do well to decline any presents, however heartily offered. But in any case the gift must be wholly spontaneous, and we should deprecate any thought on the part of nurses that presents, in addition to their fees, are in any way their "due." The sinister suggestion that a nurse with an eye to "favours to come" might be more attentive to a rich patient than to a poor one, carries us back to the days of Mrs. Gamp, and is scarcely worth consideration. British nurses (we are speaking of fully trained ones) have their failings, and have been known to be tiresome in private houses, disagreeable to servants, and careless and extravagant in their use of stores, but they rarely fail in their assiduous devotion to their patients

whether rich or poor. The question of "tips," is one upon which the opinion of those engaged in private nursing would be valuable.

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A PATIENT in the Firvale Workhouse Infirmary recently committed suicide in the absence of the night nurse, while visiting another ward. She left him in bed, and on her return shortly afterwards found the bed empty. He was eventually found in the lavatory with his throat cut. Medical assistance was at once obtained, but the man died next day from his self-inflicted injury. At the inquest the nurse stated that the deceased had never shown any symptoms of insanity while under her care. The jury were of opinion that the intense pain from which the patient was suffering had unhinged his mind, and returned a verdict of temporary insanity. The obvious lesson of this sad occurrence is that no nurse should have charge of more than one ward.

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At the Clonmel Union Infirmary two vacancies for probationers recently occurred, which the Guardians at their last meeting proceeded to fill. There were six applicants for the vacancies, one being a ward-maid in the institution. The Board unanimously elected her as she was "second highest on the poll last time, and had been given a promise when taking the position of wardmaid that she would get the next vacancy." The qualifications of this candidate may have been in order, but we think it is a mistake to promote the wardmaids in an infirmary or hospital to positions on the nursing staff in the same institution. Little discipline can be maintained between the two departments if this custom obtains.

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At the Corporation Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Winter Street, Sheffield, a painful incident recently occurred by the failure of the porter on duty in the mortuary to attach labels bearing their respective names to the bodies of two children who had died from diphtheria, with the result that the wrong body was given to the parents of one child and buried by them as their own. When the relatives of the second child applied for the body the mistake was discovered. As no body can be exhumed without permission from the Home Secretary, application has been made by the distressed relatives for the necessary order. We have many times expressed our opinion that the mortuary arrangements in hospitals and infirmaries should be in the hands of a member of the nursing staff, who should be responsible for the identification of the bodies. To minimise the risk of mistake, labels, bearing the name and address of the deceased should always be attached to a body before it is permitted to leave the ward.

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