

The same woman's journal replies to "Mary"—  
 "MARY,—I should think you probably are suffering from eczema, and not erysipelas. If you are sure of the latter, however, it is possible to cure it. First take some mild saline draught every morning on waking—magnesia is best. Have a good plain diet, beef tea or mutton broth, a quinine tonic, plenty of milk—four glasses a day would do you no harm. Powder your face and nose freely with wheat flour and a clean powder puff. If your skin blisters or sores come, apply an ointment of oxide of zinc—two or three pennyworth will be enough. For a red face, which is a different matter, I can give you a remedy if you write to me."

We will hope that "Mary" may be suffering from a "red face" only and that a powder puff may do it no permanent harm.

"It is curious how much individuality is expressed by the feet, which are, in many ways, as clear an index to character as the hand. Are there not cruel feet, vulgar feet, artistic feet, sly feet, honest feet? For instance," says the *Lady's Magazine*, "there is a broad, square-toed, squat foot, which always goes with a phlegmatic temperament; and there is a long, narrow, pointed foot, which accompanies an artistic soul; and a 'sensible' foot, which stamps the vegetarian."

"A large-footed heroine is impossible, but out of books she is probably more common than the other kind, and the atmosphere of romance which wraps the nursing profession is cruelly dispelled by the knowledge that most of its votaries are flat-footed! More honour to them that they have become so in consequence of their arduous duties, but it is a sad fact, nevertheless, that hospital nurses seldom, or never, have pretty feet."

If it is a sign of honourable distinction that many nurses have become flat footed in consequence of their arduous duties—honour is not reflected upon those who define their duties, and are responsible for their "arduous" work. Properly regulated a nurses' duties ought not to have this disabling result, and from personal observation we are inclined to dispute this assertion. We know many nurses with neat and supple feet, who step lightly from professional obligation. Indeed, a heavy footstep like a heavy hand is out of place in the sick room.

A distressing accident, resulting in the death of a young woman named Mary M'Cudden, who was employed as a nurse at Hawkhead Asylum, took place at Elderslie Station. The young woman got into the wrong train, and, noticing her mistake, she jumped out and was knocked down

and killed. Deceased, who was twenty-six years of age, was a native of Donegal, Ireland.

We report with regret an inquest held at Calne recently, relative to the death of Florence Stanley, a probationer nurse employed at the Chippenham Workhouse, whose body was found in the river. The deceased was engaged to a young man named Newman, of Chippenham, whom she saw off by train the same morning that she was found drowned. She addressed the following letter to him: "A line to say good-bye. I cannot live longer; it is impossible. I am returning your bracelet, ring, and brooch. Say good-bye to all in Chippenham for me, and now, darling, once again wishing you good-bye, believing me your broken-hearted lover, Florrie." The jury found that the deceased had committed suicide whilst temporarily insane.

At the last meeting of the Walsall Board of Guardians the following letter, signed by all the probationary nurses in the Workhouse Infirmary, was read by the Clerk:—

"We resent the decision of the board in not granting our request about our uniform. Perhaps now that the discussion has gone to its limit, the board, we hope, will realise the great insult, as we might term it, upon the profession—not only ourselves, but the profession at large—by letting the house officials wear the same uniform as the infirmary nurses. When we entered upon our profession we expected to be treated with the respect due to nurses. We therefore beg to tender our resignations, and we hope you will release us, as, under the present circumstances, our duties are no longer a pleasure to us."

Mr. Lavender asked if the nurses had the right to resign, and the Chairman replied that, according to their articles of agreement, they could not resign. He accordingly ruled the whole matter out of order.—Mr. Warner took exception to this decision, but the Chairman refused to allow any discussion.

We hope the nurses will not be intimidated by the overbearing attitude of the Chairman; under the circumstances we consider that they have a right to refuse to comply with the orders of the Workhouse Master, Mr. Totterdell, that they shall wear the same uniform as the domestic staff, and that in tendering their resignation, on this point they are within the letter of the law. If the nurses are paid monthly, they must give a month's notice: if quarterly, three months' notice. No Court of Law in the kingdom would uphold such a bumbleistic ukase as that issued by Mr. Totterdell, and upheld by the Chairman of the Walsall Board of Guardians. We advise the nurses to stand firm, and either to insist upon the objectionable order being rescinded or to leave the Infirmary at the end of their legal term of notice.

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