

he was appointed hospital superintendent, circumstances arose which Miss Banfield has not touched. His successor was a French officer, who had never been in a hospital in his life, and who was scandalised to see the nurses playing ball on the green. I could tell you much which you would not believe. Visitors were allowed at all hours all over the building; they came at six in the morning and stayed until ten o'clock at night. They came in droves, and went when they chose. I tried to stop this abuse, and was severely reprimanded. I was also reprimanded by a member of the medical staff for interference with the patients, because I objected to a male patient going to bed in his clothes, shoes, and hat. I think I have said enough to show that, as Miss Banfield says, "there are two sides to this question."

Dr. Laura Hughes, of Boston, hoped the foreign delegates would not go home with the idea that they were all still in the stage of the American Indian. She had visited most of the hospitals in England and America, and thought that hospital government was much the same. In America politics played a greater part in some institutions, but many men in the States were taking a hospital management course. The hospitals in New England where the training schools were attached, were managed by medical men who were specialists in that line, and that no doubt accounted for their good government. No doubt when women were ready to fill these posts, the gentlemen who dyed feathers would have to take a back seat.

Miss C. Josephine Durkee, Alice Fisher Alumnae, Philadelphia, spoke of the good work of Boards of women managers, who have raised the funds to found several training schools for nurses. By this arrangement the Superintendent of the hospital—himself a physician—was under the direction of the hospital Trustees or Committee—the Superintendent of Nurses under the direction of the Board of Women Managers. There was no friction; the Board gave their support, and they looked upon the Superintendent of nurses as a specialist, and expected her to give that knowledge and expert experience they did not possess.

Mrs. Quinn, Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, was glad to know that the public had so high an opinion of women officials, as to naturally expect they were to be always found on duty.

Miss Banfield replied that in order to mend our faults we must acknowledge them, and said, "I do not take back one word I have said. I can add many to it. I do not wish to create the impression that my personal experience in hospital work has been an unhappy one—quite the reverse, it has been a happy and interesting one. It is much more pleasant to say nice rather than disagreeable things, therefore I have said the unpleasant things. It is no good to deny facts, for they are still there. If denying them would change them I would deny them at once, but it won't, so I won't. The Boston City Hospital referred to is known all over the State as a model of good government, but every hospital is not like unto it. All I have said is only in the hope of doing my very small part in making things better."

Next week we shall publish a paper on "Hospital Administration in Relation to Training Schools," read by Miss Riddle, Assistant Superintendent of Nursing, Boston City Hospital.

Nursing Echoes.

* * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



The Editor wishes to express her warmest gratitude, and she feels sure all readers of this journal will unite with her, in a vote of thanks to the indefatigable sub-Editor, Miss Margaret Brey, for the manner in which she has undertaken the whole burden of conducting this paper during the past two months. The extent of the labour can only be estimated by those who sit in the editorial chair.

May we point out a little journalistic triumph during the period. Journalists are known to be the most strenuous and jealous of workers. The week's International Congress at Buffalo closed on the evening of Saturday, September 21st, and by Thursday, October 3rd, a complete resumé of the proceedings, both of the meetings of the International Council of Nurses and the Congress proper, occupying no less than twenty-six columns of our journal, were written, mailed, crossed the Atlantic, set up in type, corrected, returned in page form, read for the second time, and issued to the public in England in our special autumn number. We don't want to be in the least perky about this matter, but all the same, dear readers, it was a smart piece of work, and we want to give our representative a full meed of praise for a really remarkable journalistic feat. But it means more than that—it means loyalty and devotion to duty, greatest of virtues.

The English delegates to the Nurses' Congress are arriving home by degrees, and one and all express themselves in the warmest and most enthusiastic terms on their visit to America; they are unanimous that the Congress was immensely educative and useful, that they have been fêted and honoured by their American colleagues beyond the bounds of prudence—as it is so hard to climb down to the ordinary rough and tumble, common places of life—and that the social intercourse between American and British nurses will be productive of very far-reaching results. "We are all one on the broad lines and principles upon which the profession of nursing must progress and develop to its fullest usefulness," one delegate has

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)