

In an interview with the *Daily Mail*, Lady Gifford, who arrived at Southampton from South Africa recently, gave an account of her nursing experiences during the war. Who is Lady Gifford? A lady animated by the best of intentions and goodwill to Tommy Atkins no doubt, but we should like to know what are her nursing qualifications, and why she dons the grey dress and red cape of the Army Nurse. We have so far been unable to discover. The nursing world is becoming just a little weary of the Society pose, and of the assumption of high-born ladies who imagine that if they have rank and wealth, they can dispense with the severe training necessary in all other cases, and who give their opinions to the press on nursing matters with the utmost freedom and irresponsibility.

The paragraphs which have been freely circulated in the press with regard to the dance which recently took place amongst the nurses at a Union Infirmary, point the moral of the necessity for the utmost circumspection on the part of a body of women who live, as nurses do, in the glare of public criticism. It is necessary to abstain not only from evil, but from many things, innocent enough in themselves, which may be construed by a press, always greedy for sensational incidents, and effective headlines, into an appearance of evil. We doubt which is the most offensive, the criticism which condemns conduct which never took place, or the partizanship which thinks "we may forgive the girls for kicking up their heels—and showing them—once a year if they do their nursing discreetly for the rest of the time." Nurses will do well to avoid the possibility of such remarks by abstaining from dancing within hospital and infirmary walls.

An interesting presentation was recently made by the working men of Lynton to Miss Hope Dibben, Sister-in-Charge of the Lynton Cottage Hospital. The gift was the tangible expression of the good will of the donors who wished in some way to mark their appreciation of Miss Dibben's services at the Hospital. It consisted of a writing cabinet of solid oak, tastefully fitted up, and bearing a silver plate with the inscription, "Presented to Sister Hope Dibben by the working men of Lynton, as a mark of their appreciation of her kindness in the execution of her duties." The presentation was made by Mr. C. Lobb, on behalf of the donors, who, in discharging this pleasurable office, said that the duties of a nurse were by no means always pleasant, but when performed as they always were by Miss Dibben with love and kindness, people learnt to appreciate the spirit thus shown. The working men of Lynton, who alone had subscribed to the cabinet, one and all

admired the kind care and attention bestowed by Miss Dibben upon their comrades, and made the present offering as the expression of their united good feeling. Miss Dibben expressed her warm thanks for the gift, and said that she had only done her duty. If ever she could do more than she had already done for the patients she would gladly do so.

The superintendent nurse of the Stafford Workhouse Infirmary recently resigned her appointment on the ground of her approaching marriage and at the same time asked for the return of the money she had paid into the superannuation fund. The Clerk expressed the opinion that the Board had no power to comply with the request, and he was desired to ask the advice of the Local Government Board on the subject. If the Clerk is right, and there is reason to suppose that he is, it is certainly a hardship that nurses should be compelled by the Local Government Board to make provision for their old age, under conditions laid down by the Board, and that when the need for this provision ceases the hard cash paid down by them out of their small salaries should be retained for the benefit of other officials.

We thoroughly agree with the Chairman of the South Stoneham Union Guardians regarding the behaviour of a nurse who, after being appointed to a position under the Board, and receiving £2 16s. 5d. for her expenses, wrote directly she got back to say she had accepted another appointment. We should have thought that even if she broke faith with the Guardians as to her acceptance of the appointment, common decency would have prompted her to send a cheque for the money she accepted from them. As she did not see fit to do so, the Chairman very properly proposed that she should be asked to refund the money. He did not ask for a month's wages from her, though the Guardians would be within their right in doing so, but in common justice they should make her refund the amount paid her. It was too bad that she should come down from Liverpool and see the country and spend two nights in London at their expense.

The appointment of the Departmental Committee by the President of the Local Government Board "to inquire and report as to the qualification of nurses and probationers, the difficulties in obtaining an adequate supply of these officers, and the regulations necessary to define the respective duties of the Master and Matron, and of the Superintendent Nurse," is creating quite a flutter amongst workhouse officials. A contemporary hazards the opinion that "it is quite unnecessary to prepare any fresh regulations de-

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