

under their control. Moreover, as at present women are frequently appointed Matrons of workhouses for no better reason than that they happen to be the wives of the Masters it would seem that no proof of their having received a special education, to fit them for their duties, is at present required. We hope before long that hospital committees will take into consideration the fact, that for the thorough training of pupil-nurses, instruction in more subjects than practical nursing is required, and that they will realize that hospital management is essentially a part of Domestic Science, and therefore that instruction in this branch must be given to pupils who intend to take up administrative work if they are to successfully fill such appointments. Practical work in the wards should, in our opinion, form only part of the curriculum of the modern trained nurse, and it would scarcely be possible to find a woman better qualified for the position of Matron of a Workhouse than one who has received in addition to her special training as a nurse, systematic instruction in institutional management.

One of the objections raised to the appointment of trained nurses as Workhouse Matrons is that they would not undertake some of the duties which fall to the lot of these officials. If the conditions under which such duties have to be carried out are objectionable they must be improved, but we must point out that precisely the same objection was raised when the introduction of women of education and refinement into hospitals was advocated nearly half a century ago, and that it was only when gentlewomen entered these institutions and tackled and remedied the abuses then existing, that our hospital wards became what they are to-day, places where the sick poor receive the same skilled attention as the highest in the land, and training schools into which most carefully brought-up girls may be introduced without fear of shock to their refinement and delicacy of feeling.

### The Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

The King has been graciously pleased to sanction the following appointments to the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England. Ladies of Grace. Mary Theodosia, Mrs. A. C. Yate. Violet Edith Gwenlyan, Miss Brooke-Hunt.

### Annotations.

#### THE DRUG HABIT.

The deaths of two nurses recently from overdosing themselves with drugs draws attention to the danger of the habit of self-prescription on the part of nurses, the more so as their familiarity with drugs may lead them to think lightly of this habit. No one needs to be more exact in his accounts than the bank clerk through whose hands money is constantly passing, and in the same way no class of persons should be more scrupulous about the use of drugs than the nurses to whose care they are entrusted, and whose sense of the gravity of their effects may easily be blunted. Of course, no honourable nurse will appropriate for her personal use hospital stores for which she is responsible, but nurses can obtain drugs which are not supplied to the general public, with fatal facility, hence their tendency to take, for quite inadequate causes, such things as bromide of potassium, chloral, anti-pyrin, sulphonal, opium, morphia, and even chloroform, increasing the dose, as the one originally taken fails in its effects, till the drug habit is formed before the victim is aware that she is in its toils. It cannot be too insistently impressed upon nurses that, from a professional standpoint, they are exceeding their legitimate functions if they take any medicines—with the exception of the simplest household remedies—without medical advice, and certainly they should never take narcotics except by medical direction. If all nurses made a hard and fast rule of this nature it would be well not only for themselves but also for the reputation of the whole nursing profession.

#### THE FLANNEL SHIRT CLUB.

A Society which is doing useful and appreciated work is the Flannel Shirt Club, by the medium of which shirts are distributed to necessitous working men on their discharge from the General Hospitals of London. How much such help is needed only the medical and nursing staffs of our hospitals know, and interesting confirmation of this is afforded, inasmuch as Miss Gethen the Hon. Secretary of the Club formerly held the position of Sister at the London Hospital, while the Hon. Treasurer is a medical woman, Miss Lamport, M.D., of Stanley House, Bow Road, E.

The usefulness of such a club is appreciated when it is realized how many of the patients in

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)