

When the Board invited applicants for the vacant post the late Matron re-applied, but was not successful.

As showing that it was not considered the board acted harshly or unjustly, there were nearly forty applicants.

Both the Board and the Medical Superintendent regretted having to take the course forced upon them, but the efficiency and the discipline of the hospital had to be the first consideration.

J. C. STAMP.
Secretary,

Bendigo Hospital, Australia.

Bendigo, April 23rd, 1902.

[Miss Martha Farquharson has been now appointed Matron of the Bendigo Hospital. It therefore goes without saying that good discipline will be encouraged in the nursing department, but we are inclined to think that difficulties will always arise in nursing matters in institutions where the Committee is approached *through* a Medical Superintendent, and not directly by the Matron, who, as head of the Nursing Staff, has a right to deal directly with the Committee concerning her own department. The late Matron of the Bendigo Hospital may have been as unsuitable for her responsible position as represented by the Medical Superintendent to the Committee, but our own point was and is—that it is an obsolete system for a Committee to govern an institution *through* one single officer. The heads of the secretarial, medical, and nursing departments must be made directly responsible to the Committee for the management of their own departments. Any other system is as unjust as it is futile, and cannot maintain either good discipline or a thorough system of efficiency.—ED.]

Comments and Replies.

Provincial Nurse.—Application forms for membership of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses may be had from the Hon. Secretary, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W. It must be understood that membership of this society does not imply that the members are registered nurses, but that they have formed themselves into a Society with the object of obtaining Legal Registration of the members of their profession by Act of Parliament.

Junior Nurse.—The best way in most cases to move a patient from one bed to another, or from an operating table to a stretcher, is for two nurses to stand on the same side of the bed between the patient and the bed on to which he is to be moved. One supports the upper and the other the lower portion of the body. A semi-circle is then described so that on the second bed the feet of the patient rest in the same position as his head on bed No. 1, and his head in the position of the feet. In this way the move is easily accomplished, but if a nurse stands on each side of the bed it is almost impossible that the move should be satisfactorily accomplished.

Private Nurse.—It is sometimes useful to give tea which is made with boiling milk instead of water, as more nourishment can be given this way, and the patient often likes tea so prepared. Warm milk the last thing at night is a pleasant and soothing drink.

A Member of the Public.—The history of the struggle for State Registration of Trained Nurses up to the present time can be read in the back volumes of the NURSING RECORD. It is far too long a story to attempt to relate in the short space at our disposal in our replies to correspondents. It is a long history of the struggle of right against might, but as this is the history of the beginning of all great reform movements, we need not be over concerned.

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STANLEY SMITH, Secretary.

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