

three and a half months he spent in hospital. He goes on to say: "The conduct of the doctor was also exemplary, but another key has to be struck when the orderlies are taken into consideration. In a soldier's opinion the Army consists of two separate branches, the fighting man and the supply and medical departments. Of the latter especially, the former holds anything but a flattering opinion, the 'poultice pullers,' as the members of the R.A.M.C. are nicknamed, being held in utter detestation. To those who have not gone through "the mill" and been dependent upon the mercies of one of them, the feeling may seem unaccountable, but one has only to pass through their hands to prove to his cost the justice of the feeling. I do not mean to say that there are not exceptions or that the same holds good of every hospital, but of the hospital with regard to which I am writing, and which is one of the largest in the Transvaal, an orderly beloved and praised by his patients is the exception rather than the rule. Their treatment of the helpless patient (unless a tip is in prospect, and the writer had the good fortune to be bracketed under this head) is in most cases rude and unfeeling, and in very many instances it is only under compulsion from the doctor or sister that they will do anything, especially if it entails a little trouble, to ease the patient or make him more comfortable. No remedy is left to the poor patient, as if he makes a report his lot afterwards becomes a good deal worse."

In connection with the vexed question of nursing by orderlies the matter is in a nutshell. So far the orderlies are not under the direction and responsible to the Sisters of the Wards in relation to the performance of their nursing duties. Until an efficient system of nursing education for orderlies is evolved, and the Matron of the Hospital is placed in the same position of authority in regard to them as the Matron of a civil hospital is to ordinary probationers, so long will the present complaints continue.

Many faults are attributed to nurses—it is interesting to note their variety. For instance, in a hospital a nurse who is not "surgically clean" in her work is considered almost criminally careless; yet in ordinary life the scrupulous cleanliness observed by all good nurses is by no means universally appreciated. We know an instance of one patient who strongly objected to being washed daily, and attributed a subsequent attack of shingles to the fact that the nurses washed her so much. Recently at the half-yearly meeting of the Darwen and District Nursing Association a subscriber referred to a complaint made by some people in regard to what was described as the "cussedness" of the nurses, and said that working people were not accustomed to being fussed about. That might, in all probability,

have something to do with the bringing of certain comments of discredit upon the Association. What he referred to was that the nurses wanted to make the patients clean and keep them so. That seemed to be one of the great principles of the nurses. He had heard that that had been done on some occasions to the peril of the patients. He thought a little caution to the nurses would not be out of place. He was sure that the actions of the nurses were doing harm to the Association. If the institution could be made popular by these nurses through their considering the peculiarities of Darwen people, he thought a good work would be done.

We think the Darwen nurses are doing good service by instilling principles of cleanliness as they go about their work. The lesson will in many instances, we feel sure, be taken to heart and profited by.

A Nursing Home, at 60, Harcourt Street, Dublin, has been registered, with a capital of £2,000 in £1 shares, for the purpose of carrying on the business of private hospital proprietors, and for the nursing, care and boarding of persons requiring medical and surgical treatment, under the name of the "Dublin Swedish Institute and Private Hospital, Ltd."

A new departure has been made by the Sligo Guardians, who, finding that the respectable sick poor in their care object to the idea of entering a workhouse infirmary, have decided to take advantage of a section of the Irish Local Government Act of 1898, which permits them to separate their infirmary from the workhouse, and to call it a district hospital, and to place it altogether in the charge of the nuns, who have, it is said, nursed the infirmary for some years past with satisfactory results. A committee was appointed and rules were drafted for the government of the proposed district hospital. These were submitted to the Local Government Board for their approval, and the result was that they ordered an inquiry to be held into the matter. The inquiry was considered to be of such importance, it being the first under the Act, that both Mr. Lynch and Dr. Biggar were sent to take evidence. Mr. Fitzgerald, solicitor, appeared on behalf of the Protestant nurse and Dr. Murray, the medical officer of the workhouse.

It is a pity that the religious question should so often obtrude itself in Irish nursing matters. Appointments as nurses should certainly be made on no other basis than the nursing qualifications of the candidates. In English hospitals patients of all shades of religious opinion are to be found, as well as nurses who are members of the Roman and Anglican branches of the Church and of Nonconformist bodies. Yet the religious question in no way obtrudes itself into hospital politics, because

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