

the authority of the Local Government Board, arguments which were warmly supported by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

We are glad to learn that at last the nurses at Middlesex Hospital are to have the advantage—which the pupils of other well-organised training-schools have for long enjoyed—of systematic courses of lectures, followed by an examination of their knowledge before they are certificated. No hospital is doing its duty to the public which sends out its pupils as trained nurses without testing the result of their work in the wards and of their theoretical knowledge, and it is satisfactory that the force of public opinion is so strong on this matter that even the Middlesex Hospital has been obliged to come into line. We have frequently drawn attention in these columns to the injustice done to the pupils in the nurse-training school of this hospital as well as to the public, by the inefficient standard of training which has so far been in force.

We heard a funny story the other day. An eminent surgeon, with acute aseptic proclivities, was to operate on a case in a private house. When he arrived and looked round the room, he noticed a nice, neat, little nurse, and generally approved the arrangements. He proceeded to the washstand and poured water into the basin, when he perceived innumerable little hairs floating around. He called the nurse, made inquiries, and drew her attention to the fact that her shoulders were also powdered with hairs. "Good gracious!" she exclaimed, "so they are. I have just been trimming my fringe!"

It is almost incredible, but a story reaches us that quite recently the probationers in a county hospital communicated the fact by letter to their Matron "that they did not wish to submit themselves to examinations, and would she kindly inform the doctors"! Not much thirst after knowledge in that institution, we imagine.

Is nursing really becoming a *dernier ressort*? Sometimes one fears so. A friend, visiting some respectable poor in the East End, found them bewailing the loss of a lodger. "You see," they told her, "trade hereabouts is bad, and our lodger, who has had constant work for the last fifteen years in a factory gumming envelopes, had no work, so she's gone to a fever hospital for a few months, and is then going out to do the nursing"!

In a recent interview with Miss Penn, who is interesting herself in the provision of trained nurses on liners, we found that she is strongly opposed to the hybrid "nurse-stewardess," a class which apparently some steamship companies are substituting, presumably as a makeshift, to meet the very real needs of sick persons on board ship. Miss Penn is of opinion that if well-qualified nurses accept such offices there will be less likelihood of in-

augurating a system whereby liners would provide trained nurses as they provide medical men. Who would attempt to amalgamate the positions of stewards and doctors? Why, therefore, should a trained nurse be expected to act as stewardess? Presumably because always woman's work must be done on the cheap.

We note that Lady Furley, one of the Hon. Secretaries of the Ladies' Committee, Capetown Cathedral Memorial Fund, draws attention in the Press to the fact that, as we reported, a sum of £300 was in November, 1901, contributed by the Nursing Sisters in South Africa for the erection of windows in the memorial portion of the Cathedral in memory of those of their number who gave their lives in the performance of their duty during the war. Lady Furley suggests that should the Matrons' Council's recommendation to organise a National Memorial be set on foot, the fund should be used towards the erection of that portion of the fabric in which the windows will be placed.

This is not our conception of a National Memorial. Such a memorial, whatever form it takes, should be erected in the Mother Country, and for choice in the metropolis, and although we should like to see placed in St. Paul's some such lasting memorial in bronze or marble as that almost completed, and to be placed there in memory of the Colonials who fell in the South African war, there are at least two *live* methods by which the memory of these devoted women could be for ever kept green, which would benefit the living whilst honouring the dead.

At the annual meeting of the Order of Spanish-American War Nurses—a most alert and energetic society—held at San Francisco, the President, Dr. Anita McGee, announced that the Secretary of War and the Quartermaster-General had sanctioned the erection of a monument, by the Order, in the centre of the plot, in the National Military Cemetery at Arlington, which has been set aside for army nurses serving in, and since, the Spanish War, and the Committee appointed to deal with the question presented a report regarding designs and cost. After the subject had been discussed, a Committee was appointed to report on the following resolution contained in the report:—

Resolved:—

"That the Society proceed as soon as possible to the erection of the proposed monument to deceased army nurses in the National Cemetery at Arlington, Va., and that, to this end, the monument fund be increased to at least 3,000 dollars. That a committee be elected to select a sculptor who shall make a design satisfactory to the committee and to the Secretary of War, and with whom a contract for erection of the monument shall be made."

Dr. McGee has been re-elected President of the Society.

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