

A letter appears in the *Guardian*, dated Tardigge Vicarage, Bromsgrove, over the signature F. B. Dickins, protesting against the expression "untrained nurses" which occurred in an article in that paper as applied to Holt-Ockley nurses. As the writer of the letter admits, "It is true that the training they receive is short, from four to six months." We do not think our contemporary need go further for justification of its expression. A woman with four or six months' training in hospital wards may make a useful cottage help, but no one with any comprehension of what is involved in the term could call her a "trained nurse."

The Annual Report of the Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, stated that the expenditure of the Nursing Institute, which maintains a staff of thirty private nurses, included £476 12s. "shared as a bonus among the Secretary, Matron, and nurses." It appears to us derogatory to the status of a Matron to receive a bonus on the earnings of private nurses. Surely she should be paid an inclusive salary, taking into consideration the superintendence of the private nursing staff. But when the Secretary also has a bonus surely things are going a little too far.

Ada Matthews, wearing the uniform of, and describing herself as, a nurse, was recently remanded at Marylebone on a charge of stealing a twopenny bundle of red herrings from a stall in Kentish Town. The prisoner said she had no intention of stealing. She mistook the stall.

Miss H. Lawrence has been appointed Matron of the Government District Hospital at Zeerust, in the Transvaal, and Miss Oxley a Sister in the same institution. She writes:—

"Last November Sister Oxley and I came here, I as Matron and Sister Oxley as Sister. Zeerust is a very pretty little place, but at present the hospital is in tents. The permanent building is to be commenced in a few months' time. Tents do not sound very inviting, but we have very good ones—mine looks quite cosy, with covered floor, armchairs, nice writing-table, and my own household gods scattered about. Sister Oxley has a glorified Kafir kraal, with door, window, and mud walls higher than the natives generally build for themselves, the walls of which she has hung with Indian silks and embroideries, and, with the addition of her photographs, &c., it makes a pretty place to live in. We still like the Transvaal Government service. We have to fetch all the water required from the river, a little distance away; for this purpose we keep two mules and a water-cart. We have also a Cape cart, so that we can use the mules for some pleasant drives. There are many good farms in the district, and fruit is in abundance. Most of the streets in the town are lined on either side with fruit trees. The journey here took five or six days, and it was lucky for us we were only being transferred from one Government hospital to another, with all expenses paid, or we should have been half-ruined moving."

The Hospital World.

BARCELONA PROTESTANT HOSPITAL.

Twenty-five years ago I appealed for the first time to Christian friends in England to help the poor sick Protestants at Barcelona to provide a place where, in case of sickness, they might be nursed back to health and strength unmolested by Roman Catholic priests and nuns. Protestants, obliged to enter the Roman Catholic hospital, the only public hospital at Barcelona, refusing to conform to the rites and ceremonies of Rome, were grossly neglected, and even ill-treated, whether Spanish or foreign, so that such a place as I appealed for was an urgent necessity. Gifts came in slowly, but the Lord helped step by step. First we took a single room; then we rented a small house, then a larger house, which we were able to buy later on. Now the property is freehold, and invested in the hands of trustees. I could fill pages with examples of the lovingkindness of the Lord in providing for all necessities, not the least of which is the way in which He has always supplied the need of nurses. It is not easy to find a suitable nurse, because in a work like ours medical training and skill alone are not sufficient. We need an earnest Christian who not only cares for the sick bodies, but can also point the patient to Christ, the healer of soul and body. She must also be able to speak different languages, because the proportion of foreigners is often very large, last year twenty-seven out of sixty-five patients representing England, Germany, Austria, Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Switzerland. The hospital contains fourteen beds, so that the nurse has plenty to do. It is open to sick Protestants of all nations and denominations. The Spanish Protestants are mostly very poor; they pay about 10d. a day, foreigners pay a little more. We had to get a new nurse a few months ago, because our last nurse had married a missionary in the South of Spain. The Lord has provided us with a very suitable one in every respect, a Swiss lady, who has as her assistant a Spanish lady, daughter of a Spanish Protestant pastor. Lately we have had several cases of small-pox and typhoid, so that their work has been particularly heavy.

The first few years almost all the funds to maintain the work were collected in England, but lately English subscriptions have fallen off considerably, because so many who have helped in the beginning are dead now, and no new friends have taken their places. The foreign residents at Barcelona do all in their power to help, but such a work cannot be self-supporting, and we need the help of Christian friends in England.

Our greatest need at present is a ward for infectious diseases. As long as we have the cases of small-pox we cannot receive any others, to the great detriment of other patients. Moreover, we run the risk of having the hospital closed by the

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