

The hospitals, as a rule, have not as much money as they need, and dread the innovation of a modern training-school, with its attendant expenses.

Therefore long-established custom, religious sentiment, financial conservatism, and, to some extent, professional caution, to say nothing of social usage and conventionalities, oppose formidable barriers to the modern movement towards renovation of the antiquated nursing service of Italy.

In another letter I shall try to tell something of these modern developments.

Real Conversations.

POOR HONORIA.

Vicar's Wife (sewing): "Josiah!"

Vicar (reading): "Maria!"

Vicar's Wife: "Can't you see how upset I am?"

Vicar: "Well, my love, I—I happened to be reading; I—"

Vicar's Wife: "Ah! Josiah, what a bookworm you are; perhaps if you had taken a little more interest in your family they would not be the poor ignorant things they are. Fancy poor Honoria not worthy to be a hospital nurse"—(sniffs)—"and the cook has given notice."

Vicar: "Dear, dear! how is that? I thought you had settled it all so nicely—Constance, with her bright intelligence, doing so well in a tea shop; sprightly Adeline showing off what you call Parisian creations at a Bond Street milliner's; steady old Janet married to the curate; and poor Honoria, not quite like other girls—why, we thought she was the very one to take up nursing. What has happened?"

Vicar's Wife: "Honorina had an interview with the Matron of St. Luke's to-day, and, would you believe it, she said she did not take ladies, unless they entered as lady probationers and paid a guinea a week. She said she must have able-bodied women to do the work, and preferred the servant class; but if a lady cared to pay a guinea a week for a year, and for her own washing and uniform, her duties were light, and she would do no night duty, and take the Sister's place when she was off duty, and she would be awarded a certificate of efficiency at the end of twelve months and might be made a Sister."

Vicar: "That settles it. Of course, we cannot afford to pay for poor Honoria. She has not a happy temperament at home. But there are other hospitals. I——"
(Knock at the door; enter buxom personage.)

B. P.: "If you please, 'm, I wants to leave before my month is hup; I ham going as 'orspital nurse to St. Luke's, and the Matron she can't wait, as she 'as gave me the first vacancy, and ——"

Vicar: "Certainly, certainly; very suitable, I am sure. Good evening Jane."

(*B. P. retires.*)

Vicar's Wife: "I call it a shame, Josiah" (weeps).

Vicar: "Yes, love, there does seem something wrong somewhere. I wonder if Honoria and Jane are quite the sort of women to adorn this noble calling? Surely it would be happier for sick people if their attendants were cultured and intelligent women. If I were ill, I do not think that either Honoria or Jane ——" (opens book).

Vicar's Wife (dutifully): "Quite so, Josiah."

Nursing Echoes.

* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



There is every prospect of a good attendance at the meeting of the International Council of Nurses in Berlin in June. Members of the National Associated Alumnae of the United States are coming over in force from America, and the party from this country which Miss Mollett undertook to arrange is already complete, and will number about thirty members, while other well-known nurses are going independently. Miss Mollett's party leaves Victoria on Thursday, June 9th, and, travelling *via* Queenboro' and Flushing, will reach Berlin at 8.48 a.m. on the following morning. It will leave Berlin on the morning of the following Monday week, arriving in London at 7.50 on the morning of June 21st. Any member of the party who so desires can, on returning, break the journey at most of the large towns *en route*.

Her Royal Highness Princess Henry of Battenberg has consented to be present at the annual meeting of the Colonial Nursing Association, to be held at Sunderland House, Curzon Street, by kind permission of the Duchess of Marlborough, on Wednesday, June 8th. Earl Grey will preside.

The report of the Council of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses states that 953 policies were issued last year, the largest number since the establishment of the Fund. In the same period the policies surrendered numbered 362, held by 353 nurses, the sum paid out amounting to £22,140.

The Governors of the Royal Infirmary, Derby, have decided that the course for pupil nurses shall be extended from three to four years, the nurses receiving a special certificate to cover the fourth year, a portion of this year to be spent, if possible, in private nursing. We question the desirability of hospital committees organising private nursing institutions. The temptation to make money out of the earnings of the private nurses for the support of the institution is a strong one, and there is also a tendency to undersell those nurses who have left their training-schools and are working on co-operative lines. It is often urged that nurses who earn money for the hospital in their fourth year are only pay-

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