

It is very regrettable that the work of Miss E. A. Stevenson as the General Secretary and Superintendent of Nurses of the Sutherland Benefit Nursing Association has been brought to a termination by her resignation of office at the half-yearly meeting of the Association.

The facts of the case will be within the memory of our readers. In May last the Duchess of Sutherland, President of the Association, wrote privately to Miss Stevenson suggesting that in view of certain changes of policy she should send in her resignation. This Miss Stevenson declined to do, and subsequently, at a special meeting of the Executive Committee submitted the correspondence between the Duchess and herself, and stated that she left herself in the hands of the Committee, and offered her resignation if the Committee so desired. The Committee refused to accept the proffered resignation, upon which the Duchess resigned the office of President, and left the chair. At the recent half-yearly meeting, Miss Stevenson asked permission to make a short statement, which, she said, might relieve what she was aware some members regarded as a somewhat difficult situation. After expressing her thanks to the Committee which did her the honour to decline her offer to resign in May, she said there were two matters to which she thought well to refer. One was a type-written letter issued by the Duchess of Sutherland, after her resignation as President, to members of the Executive Committee. On the matter and tone of that communication she would not remark there. The other matter was that she had received notice to quit the house which she at present occupied, and which belonged to the Duke of Sutherland. The provision of a house was no part of her engagement with the Executive, but when she accepted the post the Duchess of Sutherland undertook as part of the arrangement to provide her with a house. She made up her mind early in July that she would not seek re-election as General Secretary, and she now tendered her resignation as Superintendent of Nurses.

Miss Stevenson's resignation was accepted with regret, and it was further resolved to place on the minutes the Committee's appreciation of the very good work she had done during the past seven years, and their best wishes for her success in the future. Several individual members spoke warmly in appreciation of her work during the seven years they had known her.

The Duchess of Sutherland was elected President of the Society for the ensuing year.

We cannot affect surprise at this termination to the incident, in an almost feudal territory, such as that owned by the Duke of Sutherland, but, nevertheless, it is none the less regrettable that a lady whose valuable work for the Association is widely acknowledged and appreciated should have found

her position so untenable that it became necessary for her to tender her resignation.

Miss Ethel M'Caul, who has recently returned from a visit to Japan, where she has had the opportunity of studying the work of the Japanese Red Cross Society, is of opinion that the Japanese are undoubtedly ahead of this country in the matter of surgical and medical outfit, and unquestionably so as to field hospital management. She was much impressed with the perfection of the medical science and nursing skill possessed by Japanese medical men and nurses. The nursing at the front in time of war is done by men, but the female nurses of the Red Cross are drafted to the big reserve and stationary hospitals in Japan, where they replace the men who are despatched to the front. At the completion of her training a Japanese Red Cross Nurse signs a contract for sixteen years' service; she can then pursue other work, provided she reports herself at intervals so as to be available when wanted. Miss M'Caul advances the opinion that it is advisable to employ fewer women nurses in our own Army Nursing Service, and to employ orderlies of higher training. It must be remembered, however, in connection with this expression of opinion, that those who have had experience of the practical working of the system of nursing by orderlies do not endorse it. On the contrary, the methods of Army nursing, both in our own country, and in the United States, have improved immeasurably since the introduction of women nurses.

The Victoria Nurses' Institute, Hog Street, Cape Town, of which the new wing was opened by Princess Christian before her departure for England, was founded as a memorial to Queen Victoria. It was promoted entirely by women, and the history of its success is the history of a woman's movement. Lady Buchanan is the President of the Committee.

Monday, October 17th, always observed as "Ether Day" at the Massachusetts General Hospital, was kept with due observances for the fifty-eighth time this year. All the nurses wore a carnation in honour of the occasion. The operating room in the dome of the building, which was the scene of this great discovery, and where Dr. Warren performed the first operation under ether, was, as far as possible, arranged to reproduce the surroundings on that eventful occasion, and an address was delivered by Dr. J. Collis Warren, Professor of Surgery at the Harvard Medical School and grandson of the discoverer. The lecturer gave a historical account of the discovery of the various events leading up to it. Lantern slides illustrating the various departments of the hospital were then shown, the nurse and her duties to-day in a modern hospital being excellently illustrated. The demonstration was a great success.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)