

untidy in the wards and in private houses. We should go farther and say that carelessness as to one's personal surroundings betray a lack of the refinement which is essential in a good nurse.

AN AWKWARD SUBJECT.

A subject which he feels it "a little bit awkward" to speak about (we do not wonder) is the nurses' method of hair dressing, but he plunges boldly into it. "There is a tendency," he says, "since fringes have become unfashionable for nurses to do their hair in rather too elaborate a way. It is an absolute fact, believe me or not as you like, that there is no good nurse who overdresses her hair, and there is no bad nurse who does *not* overdress her hair." When he sees a nurse with her hair done like a barmaid he knows for an absolute certainty that she is not a good nurse.

RINGS.

It is not fit nor proper that nurses should have rings on is the next pronouncement and one which we heartily endorse. It is not only the Chairman and the Matron of the London Hospital who disapprove of a display of jewellery (in the latter case we may point out that example might be more forcible than precept, but private patients have written to say, "Nurse is very nice, but they wish she would not wear so many rings.")

SLANG IN OFFICIAL REPORTS.

This Mr. Holland says is not very important, but he thinks its use is regrettable, and so do we. B.I.D. for "Brought in Dead" and "Dotty" are, he considers, permissible expressions, but he draws the line at "fitting" and "hæmorrhaging." Only such terms, he says, should be used as outside doctors will understand.

THE PRIVATE NURSES.

Last year London Hospital Nurses nursed 1,700 patients, and there were twelve serious complaints. This the Chairman considers an average to be proud of, only he does not see why there should be any complaints at all. He read out, when delivering the talk to the nurses, four of these reports, mentioning no names, but abstains from printing them. Other matters which he touched upon were the habit of discussing and talking about one's own health when at a private case—a reprehensible habit in a nurse, which was mentioned four or five times by patients in the course of the year; also discussing diseases with children, banging doors, and the burning of patients with hot-water bottles, the last of which "very seldom happens, but it does sometimes."

CONSIDERATION FOR PROBATIONERS.

The speaker also insisted that he "must have the probationers treated with uniform consideration and kindness." Two Staff Nurses were sent away last year for their want of consideration to the probationers. This is not to be, and those who offend will be visited with the "very grave displeasure" of the authorities.

PROBATIONER SLAP-DASH.

Probationer Slap-dash has, we are told, improved somewhat as to breakages, but she still rushes at her work and puts a thing down here, down there, without any thought at all. "The other day at dinner-time there was a patient who could only get relief

from his suffering by lying on his face. She got his dinner, plumped it down in the middle of his back, and ran away again—perfectly willing—no harm in her, but nobody wants their dinner put in the middle of their back."

THE QUESTION OF STATE REGISTRATION.

Then—the reason why, we presume, Mr. Holland has sent us a copy of this pamphlet—comes the discussion of the question of State Registration of Nurses, which paragraph he specially marks, and here he makes not only a quite unfair statement, but one which is not founded on fact. "The chief agitator" for State Registration is, says Mr. Holland, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, with whom he associates "the Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, one or two provincial Matrons, and one or two nurses who have been Matrons, and who have retired." He makes the astounding statement that every single Matron in London is against Registration, except Miss Isla Stewart and Miss Heather Bigg. We need only refer those interested to the "Statement signed by Friends and Supporters of the Movement for the State Registration of Trained Nurses," and presented to the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Nursing, for the refutation of this assertion. It includes a long list of London Matrons. The Matrons of many of the most important provincial schools, such as Birmingham, Nottingham, Leicester, Norfolk, and Norwich, the County Hospitals at York, Winchester, Bedford, the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital, and very many others are also to be found as supporters of the movement. Again, Mr. Holland asserts Registration does not affect the poor, it only affects the rich, and rich people ought to inquire. Ah, well! Registration is within measurable distance, and we could wish that instead of flogging a dead horse with quite unworthy weapons, Mr. Holland would devote his energies to helping to secure the best possible Act for the organisation of the profession of nursing. Instead of this he propounds to the nurses of the London the quite futile plan of three classes of nurses, registered, non-registered, and London Hospital nurses. Let the last-named make no mistake. When a Nursing Act comes into force there will be two classes only. London Hospital nurses must decide whether they will rank as professional or non-professional workers.

A WORD FOR THE ASSISTANT MATRONS.

Mr. Holland begs the nurses to accord their support to the Assistant Matrons in their invidious task of reporting irregularities in the wards. We know of no other hospital where the Matron does not personally visit the wards and make her own observations, apportioning praise or blame as the result of her inspection, and we hope that the system of depending on the reports of Assistant Matrons, however efficient, will never be adopted elsewhere.

Lastly, the Chairman of the London has some nice things to say to the nurses as to their care of the sick, and we believe he sincerely means them. But if only he could descend from the patriarchal paternal pedestal from which he regards his flock, and realise that food for babes is not the mental pabulum suited to nurses at the present time, it would be a happy day for all concerned,

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