

Craigie attacks the system generally, Mr. Holland defends, and, of course, quotes the London Hospital system. A few interesting points came out of the discussion; one, that at the London 110,000 poor dead have been subjected to a post mortem at the London during the last ten years, and that only three complaints have been received; and, again, that by the kindness of the Member for Stepney the mortuary is daily supplied with fresh flowers all the year round. This is quite one of the most delicate attentions the rich can pay to the poor. The poor in our dense cities are almost Japanese in their worship of flowers, and one can readily imagine how the sight of the earth's most exquisite gift softens the terrible grief of many who enter our hospital mortuaries.

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Once we heard a dying child say, "Mother's crying cos she thinks as how I shall be lonesome in 'eaven, but I shan't, cos I'll 'ave time to larne all about the flowers. Parson says the animals won't be allowed in, but 'e can't deny as 'eaven is full o' flowers."

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But to return to the care of the dead in hospital mortuaries, we know several where the surroundings are still very gruesome and where the poor excuse that "Them corpses is 'eavy 'andling" is the reason advanced why this department is not placed under the direct supervision of the nursing department.

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Miss Ada Jennings, who has recently resigned the position of Superintendent of the Kensington District Nursing Association, is taking up mission work in Jerusalem. She was trained first under the Nursing Sisters of St. John the Divine and then at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. After a time spent at the Central Home, Bloomsbury Square, Miss Jennings was appointed Superintendent of the Torquay Association. In 1898 she was appointed Assistant to Miss Peter, a position which she filled at St. Katherine's for two years, leaving in 1900 to become Superintendent of the Kensington Association, which has prospered greatly under her management. The Committee have presented Miss Jennings with a purse of gold. Another former inspector who worked with Miss Peter at St. Katherine's, Miss Mary Armstrong, also resigned to take up mission work, and has been for some years happily at work in the Likoma Diocese of the Universities Mission on Lake Nyasa.

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The *Queen's Nurses' Magazine* for April

contains an admirable portrait of Miss Amy Hughes, the General Superintendent of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, specially taken for the magazine. The magazine also contains a very interesting translation of a paper by Frau Flesch, read at the Berlin Congress on the "Hauspflege, or Cottage Help in Germany." Germany with its accustomed thoroughness provides for the care of the household during the temporary incapacity of the lying-in mother not by training the ordinary working-class woman to do midwifery, but by starting "a society which cares for the household." This society has now taken root in over twenty towns in Germany besides having spread to Holland and France. Its principal purpose is to do the work of the housewife when she is unable to do it during confinement or through illness, and to replace her for the time being by a capable person trained in household management. It is the desire of the Society not only to give in charity, but, for the sake of the whole State, to help to maintain at a critical time the family life which is the foundation of the whole social system.

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The Housekeeper or Cottage-help works under the supervision of a Committee. She takes over all the work usually done by the wife, and starts work early in the morning. She has to prepare all meals—those of the sick wife included—to see that the children are clean and ready for school, to keep the house clean and to do the washing and mending. *She is not required to understand anything about the condition or nursing of the patient, as this department must be put in the care of a maternity nurse.* She has only to help in a general way, though it is well that she should understand invalid cookery.

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It was decided at a meeting held at Chester last week to establish a County Nursing Association. The Duke of Westminster, who presided at the meeting, was unanimously chosen as president of the association. In our opinion such positions should be held by women; surely they have the qualities required for such special women's work rather than a sporting young Duke, whose intentions may be the best in the world. It is a pity to make rank and cash the only qualifications for controlling Nursing Associations. Surely an intimate knowledge of special work should be the first consideration. We always think it almost unseemly to find noble lords and clerical potentates presiding at Midwifery and Nursing Meetings.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)