

in the afternoon, as may be required. We only regret that we leave them, as the poor fellows want nurses about them all hours, but I regret that the rules of a military hospital prohibit that. The wounds are soon dressed, though frightful they are, but what becomes of the sick left to the orderlies and their own constitutions? It is true there are drinks left beside them, but who takes the trouble to pour them down their poor, parched throats? I know wine and beef-tea would do wonders for them, and bring many a poor man to life through God's mercy. I hope and trust something will be done that we may be allowed to attend the poor fellows as they require our aid.

"Dr. Evans belongs to my ward, he is a good kind gentleman, and a great blessing to the poor men. He is so benevolent I shall be sorry when there is a change.

"I regret to say that there have been three nurses sent back for that detestable vice drunkenness, which must cast a damp on the object, and which must make Miss Nightingale look with a suspicious eye on the rest. She is most untiring in her exertions, but there is much to be done if it is ever to be in straight working order. . . . Nothing could equal Miss Stanley's kindness to us on our journey. I grieve much her party were not perfect. I am happy to say I know nothing about them, as I always kept apart, with little Miss —, who is a good woman and most active. In my next letter I hope to have good news of our poor men."

From E. F.

Scutari Hospital,

Dec. 4th, 1854.

"We all have proposed writing to you for some time past, but we could not say that we were happy or comfortable. We had hoped things would be better, but this is not the case. We do not look for many comforts, but we do feel we ought to be trusted. We are not allowed to go in the wards without one of the lady nuns, we must not speak one word of comfort to a poor dying man, or read to him. We are prevented from doing what our hearts prompt us to do. We feel we are not so useful as we expected to be. We are kept back, and if we feel anxious it is, like everything else we do, turned to wrong account.

"We have tried in every way to conduct ourselves properly, but we never get a kind word. I do most heartily wish we had not come out without some one with us from home."

Some allowance must, no doubt, be made for the depression caused by the work and by the home sickness, and strangeness of the surroundings, to nurses who were of a class unaccustomed to travelling, or absence from home. Miss Nightingale wrote most warmly of the writer of the above letter, singling her out, indeed, as "invaluable, kind, careful, and modest," while she did not hesitate to express her opinion freely of some of the others. She wrote to the head of the institution:—

"Mrs. — since the 'blow-up' about the caps, has been quite a different person, and she is now, though not skilful (she does not know a fractured limb when she sees it), one of the most valuable nurses I have, from her great propriety of conduct and kindness. Her very expression of countenance is altered and improved. With regard to the other four, I fear nothing can be made of them here, though I have no doubt that as private nurses in England they may be very good. Their manners are so fibberty gibbet (though with the exception of — I suspect no greater impropriety) that they do not command the respect imperatively necessary where forty women are turned loose among three thousand men. They do not keep the rules which I have made to ensure female decorum, but run scampering over the wards by themselves at night, feeding the men without medical orders. Their dressings of wounds are careless and slovenly, and they will not take a hint except from me. I have consequently employed them less in nursing and more in making stump pillows, etc., for the men than I should otherwise have done, with the view of protecting them. And they said, which is very true, that they did not come out for needlework. They have consequently done little or nothing. I fear they must be recalled, which I should very much prefer should arise thus, because you want them rather than because I don't."

Replying to this letter, the Superintendent of the Institution said of the four nurses:

"I can only say I am sorry that they should have occasioned you any trouble, for I am really at a loss to know what amount of signification you wish me to attach to the term 'fibberty gibbet.' I think you will recollect that your most express instruction to these nurses, and which you asked me to impress on them, was that they were to obey no one but you, nor to take orders from anyone else. Perhaps they have interpreted this too liberally. To the complaint of skill to pronounce decidedly upon a fracture, etc., I can but reply that this institution has only contemplated training women who should observe and carefully carry out as nurses the direction of the physician or surgeon as the case may be, and do not engage to send out any possessed of skill as actual surgeons."

(To be concluded.)

An Interesting Competition.

There is an opportunity for nurses who are skilful with their pencils in the prizes arranged by The "Cravenette" Company, Ltd., for the best sketches illustrating the advantages of wearing "Cravenettes." For the best sketch the prize will be £2 2s., the second £1 1s., and the third 10s. 6d. A special prize of £1 1s. will also be given for the best sketch giving the most original and suitable idea for an illustration. The conditions of the competition will be found on page iii. of our advertisement columns.

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