

tent to let their patient stay alone, wondering where the woman who is paid to nurse her has hidden herself. You may think that I am looking only on the black side of nursing, but ask everyone you know if they have found the trained nurse a real help in trouble. Has she not rather upset the servants, her patient, and the other members of the family by her dictatorial ways? And yet I cannot blame these women. I know the system which trained them. I have seen the remorseless wheels at work in the machinery behind the scenes."

There is no doubt that the reminiscences of the "paragon Pro." are usually calculated to give the public a very wrong impression of hospital life. It would be well if all classes of people were encouraged to take a personal interest in the great national work which day by day is carried on in hospitals. The first step should be the appointment of women on to the weekly boards of management, and the encouragement of a healthy public spirit amongst the nursing and domestic staff. The public resents anything which savours of autocracy, and the present management of hospitals by little committees of busy men is somewhat calculated to foster this spirit. Plenty of public interest in the hospital, and plenty of interest in the public, by those who work in them is the surest antidote to cramped and contracting influences.

The *British Medical Journal* says almost the only serious disease of an epidemic character that doctors and nurses have still to face is diphtheria. Yet there is no disease in combating which more heroism has been displayed.

"When asleep, an infant's face should be protected by a piece of muslin, to prevent flies from carrying their deadly poisons to its nose, mouth, or eyes," said the medical officer at a meeting of the Dudley Town Council.

After a protracted interval, owing to the holidays and other causes, the Management Committee of the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, have met to consider the position and decide what action they should take in reference to the change in the religious views of the Matron, Miss Traill.

It is a matter of some five or six weeks since the Rev. F. J. Denman wrote to the local Press protesting against any proposal to dismiss Miss Traill because of her reception into the Roman Catholic Church, but at that time, although the Matron's change of faith was

known to the Committee, she had not received notice to leave.

The meeting was held at the hospital on Tuesday in last week, and so great an interest had the subject aroused, that there was an unusually large attendance, if not a record one. Mr. John Eyre, the Chairman of the Committee, presided, and among those present were Viscount Knutsford, most of the beneficed clergy in Guildford, and some from the district, and other members of influence and belonging to the Church of England.

The meeting was held in camera, but a communication was subsequently made to representatives of the local Press.

The whole question was thoroughly gone into, considerably over an hour being occupied in the debate. The efficient way in which Miss Traill discharges the duties at the institution was the keynote of the speeches and discussion. In the end, Viscount Knutsford moved:

"That this Committee see no reason to take action in the matter at present," and this was agreed to by a large majority.

The effect of the decision is that things will continue as at present and heretofore.

It is to be hoped that few nurses are in such sad circumstances that they will be eligible for old age pensions, but should any be in need, they will do well to put themselves in touch with local pension committees when they are appointed. Old Age Pensions fall due at the beginning of January next, and forms on which persons desiring to obtain pensions may make their claims are obtainable at the post office.

A Committee, including the Duchess of Montrose, Lady Helen Munro-Ferguson, and Miss Haldane, have interested themselves in the formation of a Scottish Branch of the Nursing Service in connection with the Territorial Army, and in starting the work the officials are anxious for the co-operation of the recently-appointed Red Cross Committees in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen. A meeting of the Committee was recently held in Edinburgh, at which Lord Provost Gibson was present. The Committee have under consideration matters relating to the appointment of Local Committees in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen, where the hospitals will be situated.

Mme. Jacques (*née* Duconseil) will henceforth hold the position of *Surveillante Générale* of the Nursing School at the Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris, the post recently vacated by Mlle. Hénault, who has decided to devote herself en-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)