

Walby, the Superintendent, on her retirement from the position. The presentation was made on behalf of the Executive by Lady Stanley of Alderley, who expressed the hope that Miss Walby would be happy in her married life. She also trusted that she would continue to take an interest in the work of the association. Miss Walby appropriately acknowledged the gift. She said her work had been extremely pleasant, and for many reasons she was sorry to part from the association. She hoped it would continue to meet with success in its work. Miss Filkin has been appointed to succeed Miss Walby.

The information received on good authority at the Registered Nurses' Society office that Miss Rose Ellen Holliday had inherited a legacy of £30,000, was not quite correct. The sum left to Miss Holliday by her late patient, Mr. E. W. Taylor, of Hove, was £22,000. Although Miss Holliday will now retire from active nursing, it is presumable that she will continue to hold in respect the profession to which she owes her independence.

The current number of the *Nineteenth Century and After* contains an article on "Nurses in Hospitals," by Mr. B. Burford Rawlings. Mr. Rawlings touches on many details of hospital management in relation to nurses from the "living-in" system to the commissariat. Of the latter he says: "To cater for any large body of people is a thankless office. Scarcely any two of them will agree upon what is appetising, and nurses have a reputation among those who know them best for being especially difficult to satisfy. 'I never eat fish,' cries one. 'Nor I poultry,' says another. 'Beef always makes me ill.' 'I don't mind shoulder of mutton, but I can't touch leg.' 'Boiled beef! why it's only fit for navvies!' are echoes of actual utterances.

"Those who dislike joints lightly cooked usually describe them as 'raw,' while those who 'like the gravy in the meat' will as constantly refuse a dish because 'it is dried up to nothing.' A sirloin, described by an irate sister in a moment of inspiration as a 'cinder' afterwards supplied a well-appreciated dinner in the servants' refectory, where criticisms levelled at the fastidiousness of nurses find their loudest expression. Sometimes nurses merely 'go without,' and the Matron's efforts to discover their objections meet with little success. 'It's nothing I don't feel hungry!' But whispered grumblings, formal complaints, and an occasional round robin testify to the

spirit of discontent which no liberality seems equal to banishing altogether." We can only say that if nurses are fastidious as to their food the average hospital dinner affords an admirable means of self-discipline.

Mrs. George Cornwallis West, in the course of her recently published "Reminiscences of Lady Randolph Churchill," relates the story of the fitting out of the *Maine* as a hospital ship in the South African war. It was the wish of the Committee to secure an American ship, if possible, but Mr. Roosevelt, then Governor of New York, who was cabled to, was unable to help. Then, through the Chairman of the Atlantic Transport Company, came the offer of the *Maine*, which, at the outbreak of the war, had been offered to the English Government. Mr. Bernard Baker, President of the Company, hearing of the committee and its aims, generously proposed to the Admiralty to hand over the *Maine* to it to fit out. The Admiralty agreed. The Committee took over the ship from the Government on the same terms. This arrangement pleased both parties. The chief difficulty, says the author, was ignorance of the requirements of such a hospital. There was no example available in England of a properly constituted floating hospital for war time. Compared with it, the many field hospitals which were being organised were easy matters to arrange, for every detail was already laid down by the Army Medical Department. It is true that four or five other ships were being equipped for the same purpose, but probably they found themselves equally embarrassed.

The Administrative Committee of the Bordeaux Hospitals have addressed the following letter to Miss Elston, Directrice of the Nursing School at the Tondu Hospital, Bordeaux:—

MADemoisELLE,

It is with pleasure that we learn of the progress made by the Nursing School, whose fame is beginning to spread throughout France, and directs attention to the Hospital Administration of Bordeaux, which is unique in having known how to create this institution on the lines which govern it.

No one doubts that this success is due to a great extent to your intelligence, firmness, and spirit of order and initiative. We appreciate, as is only right, all these qualities, as well as the good deportment of the School, and the classes and lessons in ethics which you have known how to give to your pupils with very remarkable distinction. The Administrative Committee decided at its session on the 11th inst. to communicate to you its great satisfaction, and its warm congratulations on the results obtained. It is a very agreeable

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)