

'institutional journal' has become notorious. If ignorant, it is well to be silent. There certainly is no excuse for wantonly making a public statement calculated to injure the Medical charities. For a moment we will leave out of the question Metropolitan Hospitals. The merest novice in the matter of provision for removal of sick and accident cases in London should know of the existence of St. John's Ambulance Association, with its invalid transport corps, for the service of sick and injured persons, and its horse ambulance, litters, carriages, carrying-chairs and stretchers. And it should be as well known that this excellent branch of the Association's work for the conveyance of the sick can, except for infectious cases, be promptly made available all over London, upon very moderate terms, by simply sending a telegram to the Society, notifying that aid is required.

"But in a number of Metropolitan Hospitals, and notably at St. Mary's and Charing Cross, there have been ambulances at work for some years past. It is well known, or at least should be by those who pose as authorities on Hospital affairs, that good suit and service was done by the Charing Cross Hospital Ambulance Corps on Lord Mayor's Day, on Jubilee Day, and especially during the Trafalgar Square disturbances. No wonder, then, that the rashly erroneous and injurious observations of our contemporary have brought indignant contradictions from all quarters in and beyond London. And well it might, for we know as a fact that at Hospitals in Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool, Southampton, Edinburgh, and other places, there are in use more or less efficient ambulance services.

"The case at King's College Hospital, which caused the paper to which we refer to rush into this attack upon Hospitals, or, rather, its proclaiming the wants of the Hospitals' Association, was that of Lewis McDonald, who, because there was no vacant bed at this Hospital, was removed to Charing Cross, and there died the same evening. We quite admit that the authorities of King's College Hospital deserved censure, but not so much because they had no ambulance—that being due probably to a lack of funds—but because they failed to obtain a proper conveyance for the unfortunate man. They could, doubtless, have got one at the Charing Cross Hospital, or certainly at the St. John's Ambulance Association.

"That it is desirable to have ambulance services at the London Hospitals goes without saying, but it is a question of means, and the authorities, with the knowledge that the use of those valuable appliances can be obtained as we suggest, probably do not feel justified in launching out into further expense when they have so many imperative calls upon them. But any pegs will serve

upon which to hang some hats, and any subject or occasion is useful if it is likely to secure 'members and support' to the Hospitals' Association."

CORRESPONDENCE

(Notes, Queries, &c.)

* * We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by Correspondents. Brevity and conciseness will have first consideration. See Notices.

* * British Nurses' Association.—We are requested to state that Miss Wood (Hon. Sec.) will be at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W., every Wednesday, from 10.30 a.m. to noon, and at 7, St. George's Mansions, Red Lion Square, W.C., on each Friday until noon, to see Nurses or others who may wish to make inquiries.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Supplementing Dr. Griffiths' letter in your last issue, *re* the complaints made by ladies and Nurses as to the impossibility for learning Dispensing, through want of places where they may be taught, I beg to say that Dispensing and Pharmacy, in all their branches, have been thoroughly and practically taught for years past, in the Dispensary attached to this Hospital. The course of instruction is given by qualified teachers, specially selected as being best adapted for the post, and commences with the very elements of the art; and by successive steps ladies acquire such a complete insight into this important branch of Medical education, as to fit them for undertaking the duties of Dispenser in any Hospital or Nursing Institution in the kingdom. Twice a week lectures are given on *Materia Medica*, Pharmacy and Therapeutics, which all the ladies are allowed to attend. At the end of the course a "Certificate" in Dispensing and Practical Pharmacy is given to those the Council of the Hospital think sufficiently skilled. This certificate states that the holder is competent to act as a Dispenser of Medicines, and has attended the course of instruction and lectures in connection with the Hospital. This certificate is recognised by the various colleges, Universities and Examining Boards, throughout the United Kingdom. Several ladies have obtained this certificate, and their subsequent career has been such as to prove them fully able for the work they have undertaken. Ladies of all religious denominations are received, and they can enter at any time. The fee for instruction is £1 1s. per week with board and residence, or £3 3s. for three months, without board, &c.

Classes have also been formed for Midwifery, and lectures are given during the week, supplemented by demonstrations on the dummy. Cases are attended by the ladies among the out-patients. A certificate is granted after instructions and a sufficiency of cases attended, which is recognised by the various examining bodies.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully.

I. A. HUTTON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
House Surgeon.

Hospital for Sick Women and Children,
9 and 32, Lupus Street, Pimlico,
Oct. 20, 1888.

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