

account of the duties and hours of a Nurse's work, concluding with remarks with which most of my readers will agree, and which it is well that the public at large should clearly comprehend:—

"It is not at all a bad life for any one who is fairly strong, and who can put up with unlimited obedience to rules. I think a great many Hospitals make rules about small matters which should be left to Nurses' common sense. Another drawback—in some Hospitals, at least—is that there is not much attention paid to the comfort of the Nursing staff as regards food and recreation. Also, if they are ill, they might receive a little more consideration than is sometimes the case. In some places, they are treated very much as if they were machines, only perhaps less carefully. Many Nurses work till they drop rather than make any complaint. Of course these details vary in different Hospitals, and what is the case in one may not be the case in another, but in some there is much to be desired in this respect. A proof, however, that the life is not a bad one, is that of the numbers who take to it, only a small proportion give it up to follow any other occupation.

She told one good story of one of the visiting Surgeons at her training school, to whom one day a patient, an old Frenchwoman, said: "Doctaire, I will kiss you." But the doctor, "a very solemn-looking gentleman," was evidently equal to the occasion, for he replied quite gravely, "Oh! my house-surgeon always does that sort of thing for me!" What the house-surgeon felt on the subject, the deponent sayeth not.

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THERE seems to have been a great deal of trouble caused in connection with the plans of the proposed Nurses' Home at the Carlisle Infirmary; the Health Committee of the town making various objections as to the drainage and buildings. It is much to be hoped that an arrangement has by this time been arrived at, for there can be little doubt, as we have in this Journal pointed out on more than one occasion, that the greatest necessity exists for further accommodation for the Nurses of the Institution. If improvements are being delayed by red-tapeism, the considerable amount of personal discomfort and public harm which is now existent is being very unjustifiably prolonged.

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THE Report of one District Nursing Association for the past year is a very interesting one in several ways. It not only shows how much good Nursing is wanted, but how much it is appreciated. "The number of cases nursed during last year was 432, of whom 317 recovered, or became convalescent. It has been calculated that the cost of each case to the association averages 17s. 9d., and that of each visit, 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. The total number of visits paid by the Nurses during the year was 11,372." It is stated

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that "a list of workers is kept by the superintendent; and from this list applicants for Nurse helps are supplied," a fact which I do not quite understand, unless it means that unskilled help is used as supplementary to the work of the trained Nursing staff—a course which, of course, with proper organization, might be valuable. But in one way the success of the Association is unique, so far as I know. It has so conclusively proved the value of good Nursing, that it has been proposed that the Association should start and manage a Cottage Hospital for the locality, and the medical men of the district, it appears, cordially support the proposal. Will the kind but anonymous correspondent who sent me this information tell me the name of the town in question?

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THE greatest amusement will be felt in that wide circle of the Nursing world which understands Mr. H. C. BURDETT, by the following letter which appeared in last week's *British Medical Journal*. They will not be surprised to find that he has been assuming much more than he had a right to do; and publishing private letters is, of course, quite a speciality with our contemporary. But who has been gulling Miss HAMPTON? Does she actually believe there is any controversy amongst really trained Nurses in England? Someone ought to tell her the truth, that except an official of the Stock Exchange and a little clique of amateurs and pecuniarily interested persons who support him, the entire profession is "solid" for progress and reform. Miss HAMPTON'S letter is as follows:—

SIR,—I shall be obliged if you will insert in your JOURNAL the following communication. I was surprised to note in the *Hospital* magazine of March 4th a copy of a letter sent by me to a Hospital Matron, and printed by the *Hospital* as a circular letter. I have sent no circular letter. The letters I have sent to Nurses and Matrons have been individual letters, and no two alike. A former letter published in the *Hospital* some time since, as from me, was a personal one to the Editor of the *Hospital*, and not intended for publication. I have authorised the publication of neither of these letters. I make this statement, as I do not wish to be identified in any way with the controversy about Nursing affairs going on in England, nor do I wish to appear to be a partisan of either side. I hope to have the active co-operation of all Nurses and Hospital workers. Lady Superintendents or Matrons who have not received communications from me up to this time relating to the Congress for Nurses will please understand that it is entirely due to the fact that their addresses are not known; and a cordial invitation is hereby extended to all who wish to prepare papers to send notice at once to me, and they will receive prompt consideration. It is also expressly requested that as many English Nurses as possible will be present at the Congress, and assist by taking part in the discussion. My object in addressing this letter to your JOURNAL rather than to any of the journals especially devoted to Nursing work, is my desire to avoid

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