

now is in force at the Royal Infirmaries of Edinburgh and Aberdeen, and at the Western Infirmary of Glasgow. Why should Scottish doctors and patients have less experienced Nurses than English people now obtain? and why should one year's standard, in vogue in this country thirty years ago, be expected to last in Scotland "in future"?

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THE *Allahabad Pioneer* states that Bareilly has been included in the list of military stations in India at which lady Nurses are to be permanently employed, and to enable this to be carried out, one nursing sister will be withdrawn from the Allahabad centre and another from the Mhow centre. But this sanction has been given conditionally that no extra charge (pay) will be incurred for the senior of the two lady Nurses who will hold the position of Acting Superintendent.

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THERE seem to be troubles brewing in the Manchester Royal Infirmary. Instead of these letters in the general Press, why do not the Nurses, if they have any grievances, formulate them in writing, sign the statement, and place it before the Matron, with the request that she will bring it to the knowledge of the Committee? I feel confident that both Miss CALVERT, the Matron, and Mr. SAUNDER, the General Superintendent, would do anything in their power to bring about any reforms which may be necessary. And if the facts given in the following letter, which appeared in the *Manchester Courier* on the 19th inst., are correct, there is undeniably material for a discussion in the Press which can do no good to the Institution, and is, I feel sure, quite unnecessary for the sake of the Nurses. The letter to which I allude reads as follows, and I should be glad if one of my Manchester readers would send me the previous letter referred to:—

"The letter on this subject which appeared in your issue of the 28th ult. only came under my notice a few days ago, and I may say that there is one Institution of which Mancunians are proud to which every word contained in that letter can be truthfully applied, and I feel assured that if the public were aware of the cruel manner—for the treatment amounts to cruelty—in which Nurses at the Manchester Royal Infirmary are treated they would insist upon a complete alteration of the system, not only on behalf of the Nurses, but for the sake of the patients who are under their care. To enter into details would take up too much of your space, but I will touch upon some of the points that appear most prominently to need reform. That the Probationers or day Nurses should not be required to scour the floors of the wards, the cupboards, and the other menial work of that kind which they at present have to do instead of attending to the patients, and that they should receive some practical instruction in matters relating to their profession, instead of being left to pick up such knowledge as they can promiscuously. That more time should be allowed in which the Nurses can

give the patients their dinner. A Nurse may have 18 patients to attend to, their dinners are ready about half an hour before the dinner hour of the Nurses, and the Nurse has to bring into the ward each patient's dinner. She may have two, three, or four patients whom she has to feed, and she must have all their dinners finished and be herself down in the Nurses' dining hall at the prescribed hour. If she fail she will be reprimanded and reported; consequently she is compelled to make the patients take their food as quickly as they can swallow it. This cannot be good for the patients. The food provided for the Nurses should be properly cooked, and decently served. At present the idea seems to be that anything in the way of cooking is good enough for the Nurses, and the tea and coffee are made almost nauseous, not from the fault of the quality of either, but by the manner in which they are prepared. The pity is that there is nobody to take any interest in the comfort of the Nurses, and any complaint made would receive no attention, but would probably cause a prejudice against the person complaining. The day Nurses come on duty in the wards at 7 a.m., and for the first two hours are working at top pressure in scouring and cleaning the wards. They go to dinner at one o'clock, and are supposed to go out for exercise for two hours in the afternoon, either from two till four or from four till six. They have tea and come on duty till nine o'clock, when they go to supper, and after supper they have to attend a service in the chapel. All the time they are on duty they are not allowed to sit down or rest in any way, so that by the time they go off duty (after 9 p.m.) it may be imagined they are tired out; but tired or not, whether their feet and limbs ache through long hours of standing, they must attend chapel and sing hymns. Picture the mockery of it; keeping people without any practical rest the whole day, and then require them to take part in religious exercises, when, as is frequently the case, they are suffering actual pain from sheer fatigue. Would any medical man allow any person he cared for to be on their feet for so many hours daily as are the probationers at the Manchester Royal Infirmary? In the factories, where the work is much lighter and is not attended with the responsibilities that are inseparable from nursing the sick, the law forbids the employment of women for more than a certain number of hours—even though they may actually desire to continue working. Surely some steps ought to be taken—(a) to shorten the hours of duty; (b) to provide for proper instruction, at all events, for new comers, and (c) for the proper cooking and serving of the meals. I have said nothing of the night Nurses, but as I have trespassed so far I will conclude with the hope that these lines may induce some persons who have the power to use their influence in the direction stated above.—Yours, &c.,

A SYMPATHISER WITH NURSES."

April 17th, 1893.

A Forest Hospital in Hungary.

BY LINA MOLLETT.

HOW the absence of "wonted landmarks confuses one!" observed my friend. We were wading, and had been wading for some time, in fresh-fallen snow, trees to the right, trees to the left, when she made this remark. Warm with exercise, and rather out of breath, we regarded each other's flushed faces and laughed.

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