

appointed Sisters of wards containing from 35 to 60 beds, being still paid probationers' salaries, and, according to their contract, being still liable to be dismissed at any moment at the uncontrolled will of the Matron, and that serious results have occurred to the patients from the ignorance of, and want of supervision over, the probationers; that probationers who enter the Hospital under promise that they shall be trained for two complete years in the wards, are sent out to nurse private cases long before they have completed that term, seriously interfering with the Nurses' education and causing much disorganization in the nursing of the sick poor in the wards. These probationers are paid £20 per annum as pupils, but they are charged for as "thoroughly-trained Nurses" at the rate of a guinea and a half or two guineas per week. It is not surprising, therefore, that the annual report for 1892 states that a net profit of more than £1,700 was in that year derived from the Private Nursing Department; that the Nurse's hours are too long, being as they are twelve hours a day for seven days a week, and their duties too exhausting for an average woman's strength; that in consequence of the long standing many suffer from flat foot and varicose veins, and a large percentage of the probationers are shattered in health and compelled to leave the Hospital after a few months; that the Matron has been given despotic power—power which no official of a Charitable Institution should be entrusted with.

Correspondents of the *Pall Mall Gazette* have stated that the present Matron of the London Hospital was accused in 1880, when she was Matron of the Pendlebury Hospital, of establishing a nursing despotism at that Institution, and that, owing to the action of the *British Medical Journal*, and of the Medical Staff, she was compelled to resign her post. The whirligig of time has brought in its revenges, and now that this same lady is stated to have introduced the same system at the largest Hospital in the Kingdom, not one of the medical journals appears to have protested against such a dangerous assumption of power. It appears to me, as an independent journalist, that the Medical staff of the London Hospital are acting very foolishly in their own interests in permitting a nursing despotism at their Institution, and that such journals as yours, which have to defend the wider interest of the whole medical profession should not permit abuses to continue which reflect discredit on the whole Hospital world.—I am, Sir, Yours faithfully,

"The SPECIAL COMMISSIONER" of the
Pall Mall Gazette.

The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.

Inventions, Preparations, &c.

KINGYETT'S SULPHUR FUMIGATING CANDLES.

(The SANITAS COMPANY, LTD., Bethnal Green, E.)

Mr. Kingyett, F.C.S., Consulting Chemist and Managing Director of the above well-known Company, has succeeded in placing upon the market a most convenient form of sulphur, instantly ready for disinfecting, efficiently and thoroughly, rooms, clothing, etc., and which is a vast improvement over the antique method of burning sulphur in an old tin or in a shovel over hot coals, running great risks with both person and property. Mr. Kingyett has managed to produce a sulphur candle which ignites readily, is portable, safe, and does its work thoroughly, for which, medical men and Nurses will be grateful.

"NUBOLIC" SOAP.

(Messrs. JOSEPH WATSON & SONS, Whitehall Soap Works, Leeds.)

Our attention has been drawn to this soap for all household purposes, and we cannot speak too highly in its favour as regards laundry work, for it contains many qualities which render it of great value in destroying the infectious germs that so often cling to soiled linen. It is advisable when using it for such clothes to first dissolve the quantity required in hot water, then when the clothes have been allowed to steep in it, they can be washed and boiled in the ordinary way, which, together with the use of this soap, will destroy any possibility of contagion even after fever, small-pox, and all such infectious diseases. Added to this, its free use in the house is most advantageous, and stairs and rooms scrubbed with the "Nubolic" Soap gives off that refreshing odour which so well defines clean linen.

Fresh Pages.

"Aids to Gynæcology." By Alfred S. Gubb, M.D. (Paris.) (London: Ballière, Tindall & Cox.) Cloth, 116 Pages, price 2s. 6d.—This will be found a most useful and handy companion to the medical student's work in gynæcology. These little volumes of "Aids" do not lend themselves to the appreciation of the earnest worker as a rule, but they become of real value at times to the student who wishes to refresh his memory on the various points of a subject just previous to an examination, and they frequently—if used legitimately—make capital summaries of the matter dealt with by a teacher during a course of lectures; in fact, they often become a simple condensation of the great volumes of "wind-bag" oratory displayed in the *annus medicus*. The work just issued by Dr. Gubb is simply an "aid," and, as such, will be found very readable and useful, and well up-to-date. The publishers have produced a neat volume, printed in good type, but have again omitted the title on the back edge.

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