

in question would be undesirable ; but they did not, and do not, approve of the exclusion of a candidate solely on religious grounds."

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"The correspondence which passed on this occasion is deserving of notice. Here are the earlier letters.—

Great Ormond Street Hospital, March 9, 1894.

DEAR MADAM,—Kindly inform me if you are a Unitarian, for, if such is the case, I regret being unable to receive you here.—Yours faithfully,  
(Signed) BLANCHE POWER.

Highbury, March 11, 1894.

DEAR MADAM,—I am a Unitarian ; and, if this disqualifies me from acting as Nurse at the Great Ormond Street Hospital, I can only express my surprise and regret that any Institution at the present day should be conducted in a spirit of such mean intolerance.

For the same reason your Committee would have had to refuse the services of Florence Nightingale.—Yours truly,  
(Signed) IDA BLACK.

Great Ormond Street, March 14, 1894.

DEAR MADAM,—This Hospital is undenominational, but it is customary for the Matron to inquire of candidates to what body of the Church they belong.

The fact of your being a Unitarian would in no way debar you from Nursing here ; but the tone of your letter makes me fear that you would not be prepared to show that spirit of conciliation without which there cannot be harmonious work.—Believe me, faithfully yours,  
(Signed) BLANCHE POWER."

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"It will be seen that the Superintendent first informs the lady that if a Unitarian she is ineligible, and then tells her that her being a Unitarian would in no way debar her, falling back upon the 'tone' of the candidate's previous letter as a ground for rejecting her. This is very pitiful shuffling, and it is only partially excused by the explanation which the Superintendent gives in a subsequent letter, that the first epistle expressed her own views, and the second those of the Committee. The matter is, indeed, rendered rather worse by what follows. Having received these two contradictory letters, and been lectured for her tone, Miss BLACK naturally replied, pointing out the inconsistency, and contending that her tone was justified by the circumstances. The Superintendent then explains that her second letter was prompted by the Committee, and concludes :—

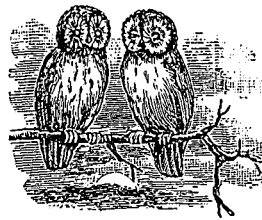
I beg to inform you that the selection of the nursing staff lies entirely in the hands of the Matron, and that from the tone of both your letters, I do not think your appointment desirable. I beg, therefore, to return your application.

Thus having twice before rejected the lady, each time on different grounds, she now proceeds to reject her a third time, this time on the ground of both her previous letters, one of them written after the second rejection. All who are concerned for the Great Ormond-street Hospital, which is undoubtedly one of the most useful institutions of its kind, will be glad to hear that the Committee have taken steps which will render any repetition of such a correspondence as this impossible."

## Matrons in Council.

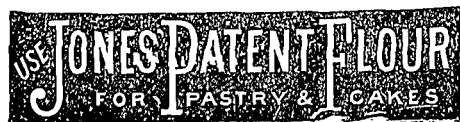
### WHAT IS A TRAINED NURSE ?

*For what length of time should a Probationer be trained in the wards of a Hospital, and how should that training be organised in order to fit her to hold every position in the profession ?*



MADAM,—I should like to make one suggestion concerning the training of Probationers, both in the interest of the Nurse and of some of our smaller Institutions, as there is no doubt that the high standard of three years' training, demanded by the Royal British Nurses' Association,

is beginning to press very hardly upon the Cottage and Special Hospitals. Indeed, I have heard Matrons say that they have not known a day's peace since the registration of trained Nurses was started. All the Hospitals under forty beds, and many Special Hospitals, are now finding the greatest difficulty in obtaining the best type of women as Probationers. The argument advanced by the candidate—and it is certainly of weight—is, "Will the training in this Hospital qualify for registration?" or "shall I have to go to a general and larger Institution for further training?" If a young woman enters a Hospital containing less than the specified forty beds, that time professionally is thrown away. It is the same with the Special Hospitals, unless general training has been first obtained. We all know the difficulties, and can sympathise with the conscientious Matrons of the Hospitals "without the pale," where the necessary qualification for registration prevents them obtaining a lengthened service from the most capable women as Nurses ; and it appears to me that with co-operation this difficulty might be overcome. Take the Fever Hospitals, Hospitals for Women's, Children's, and Nervous Diseases, how impossible it is in our large Nursing Schools for all the pupils to pass through and become experienced in these specialities. Why should not each large General Hospital become affiliated to the surrounding Special Hospitals, so that the Probationers attached to the large School should be accepted by the Special Hospital, and *vice versa*, and thus acquire valuable knowledge it would be impossible for them to gain. It is quite certain that the routine of three years' training in one Hospital only is not an unmixed benefit to Nurses or their future patients. In many instances the Nurses become narrow in method and detail, and would be all the better for fresh experience in a new sphere, where she would grasp the fact that Bart's., Guy's, and St. Thomas's do not comprise all the Nursing Schools of the kingdom. I acquired my training in three different Hospitals,



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