

frequently on various Nursing matters which are of public importance :—

"The question has been asked of me why the ladies of the Indian Nursing Service should pay Income-tax. Their incomes range from Rs. 175 to Rs. 300 per mensem. The mysteries of the Indian Income-tax Acts are unknown to me; nor am I eager to improve my acquaintance with them, finding the English Income-tax sufficient. I am told, however, that regimental officers in India pay no tax on pay under Rs. 500. If that be so, I should much like to know on what principle Nurses are taxed under Rs. 300, or even under Rs. 200."

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MISS HENRIETTA KENEALY writes: I am glad to see how daily and weekly newspapers are beginning to expose the "Sham Nurse," and to open the eyes of the public to the abuse of Nurses' uniform. Two weeks ago I addressed a letter on the subject, to three morning papers, which letter I append as it may interest the readers of the *Nursing Record*.

"It is publicly stated that Lord Sandhurst will take charge in the House of Lords of the Bill dealing with the question of military and naval uniforms. Certainly no one more fitted could be found for the duty than Lord Sandhurst, but since he has shown that he takes deep interest in the Royal British Nurses' Association—and as a consequence in the professional status of Nurses—I would venture to suggest through your columns that the Nurses engaged in the military and naval services should consider the practicability of begging Lord Sandhurst to add provisions to the Bill which should deal with the uniform of Nurses engaged in the military and naval Hospitals. I have not myself the honour of belonging to either of these services, but as a trained Nurse I feel very keenly the need of some legal measure being introduced that will lessen the prevailing abuse of Nurses' dress, and it appears to me that the first step to be taken is to protect the uniform of Nurses who occupy the important position in the military and naval forces of being of service in times of peace as well as in times of war. As matters now stand, a Hospital Nurse's uniform may be regarded as "fancy dress," and it is worn without let or hindrance by any one whose purpose it suits. A young woman, for instance, passes an amateur examination in "First Aid" or Nursing, and forthwith dresses herself cap-a-pie in Nurse's uniform. And a still more unwelcome departure is coming into vogue. During the past season it has been thought chic for fashionable ladies to dress up their nursery maids in full Hospital Nurse attire, and to drive through the park and crowded thoroughfares with these masqueraders seated beside them, not unfrequently nursing a baby. From the cases I have been able to investigate, I have found that the baby has always been genuine—the Nurse never. Let other professions take heed unless something be done to protect uniform. Fashion changes is proverbially fickle. Next season smart equipages may be made distinctive by the appearance in place of the nursery maids of clean-shaven, well groomed impassive figures garbed in the dress, for example, of an Abbe or a Bishop. The effect would be immense. But in all seriousness I write. I hold it of great public importance that the art and craft of Nursing should be looked upon as an honourable profession, only to be attained by going through a systematic course of practical work and educational training, and not as a trick or a trade as easily acquired as the dress that describes it. I do not hesitate to assert that the abuse of which I complain is becoming sufficiently serious to make action on the part of Nurses themselves imperative, and I beg to submit this suggestion of an initiatory measure to the consideration of the Nurses attached to the military and naval services throughout the kingdom."

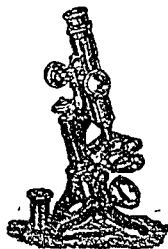
Of these only the *Daily News* published my remarks, but a few days later the *Daily Telegraph* had a long leading article on the question, practically endorsing all I said, and adding great weight to the importance of the subject. The *Lancet*, in the same week, also published an article on "Sham Nurses," and to-day (Friday) the *Daily Telegraph* publishes this paragraph :—

"A correspondent calls attention to a new phase of the sham Hospital Nurse question. Through financial troubles his daughters are compelled to earn their own living. With this object in view one of them answered an advertisement in which an invalid sought the services of a "ladylike, musical, well-educated young person as companion at the seaside." No salary was offered, but applicants were assured that they would not be required to perform any duties of a menial character. In response to a request for further particulars the young lady was informed—'You would attend me when, twice a day, I go out in my bath-chair, and would have to find and wear the uniform of a Hospital Nurse.' By this means the advertiser hopes to be able to pose at some fashionable watering-place as a well-to-do invalid, accompanied by an apparently qualified Hospital Nurse at a hypothetical salary of several guineas a week, and she will probably find a dozen candidates who are willing to lend themselves to this imposture in return for home and food."

The provincial newspapers are likewise commenting on the matter, so we may expect the "Sham Nurse" will not much longer enjoy her present popularity.

## Medical Matters.

### A DANGER OF THYROID EXTRACT.



In view of the undoubted craze which at present exists amongst the public for dosing themselves with thyroid extract, it is well that considerable attention should be called to a case recently reported, in which a gentleman, after taking doses of this extract for a week, complained greatly of depression with frequent flushings, palpitations and general malaise. In another week, he felt and looked "a very old man," although he was only 45, and the breathing became embarrassed, his pulse rose to 132, and the urine was found to be loaded with sugar. The thyroid treatment was stopped and the sugar quickly disappeared. It is a well-known fact that polyuria is a very frequent consequence of the administration of the thyroid extract, but so far as we are aware, glycosuria has not previously been noted as a result of the treatment. Still it is well that those who desire to indulge in self-medication should realize the very considerable dangers they thereby run of inducing actual disease in consequence of their experiments upon themselves. This particular patient, by the way, was taking full doses of the drug—that is to say, four tabloids a day—for Psoriasis, and it was

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)