

largest and most important Institution in the Transvaal—the Kimberley Hospital. In those former days, there was a resident surgeon, who was also district surgeon, and who was consequently obliged by duty to be absent from the Hospital sometimes for a week at a time. Naturally, the resident Sister-in-charge became personally responsible for many duties which are not, as a rule, performed by the Matron. Gradually, however, as the Hospital grew, the organization became more complete, and the Committee have now so arranged the duties of each officer, that there is no foundation for the charge that the Sister has control of other departments than her own.

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The assertion that Sister HENRIETTA has "sole control of the Nursing Department, and that £2,000 annually is granted to her," is not true. The Nursing staff is supplied by the Diocesan Sisterhood, of which she is the representative only, after the systems in vogue at University College and the Metropolitan Hospitals in London. The detail of the work is in the hands of the Sister-in-charge, but all matters of importance are referred to her superiors. The money is paid to the chaplain, and not to the Sister; and, although the detailed expenditure is in her hands, an agreement has been made by the Warden with the Board of the Hospital, that it should be spent on the Hospital service, and that the books should be open to the inspection of the Chairman. They are further audited annually by a competent person, and every item is carefully inquired into by the Superior of the Sisterhood; and during the first four years that the community nursed the Hospital, when it was a struggling work, they received only £100 per annum for all expenses connected with the Nursing staff.

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The statement that the Sister-in-charge is enabled "to compel a certain dietary for the patients on one day in the week," is quite devoid of foundation.

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No dietary has ever been *compelled* by the Sister-in-charge. We imagine the sentence refers to a custom (very common in public institutions) of providing a fish diet on Fridays. We learn that there was always meat provided for the patients if they disliked fish, but that naturally, in Central Africa, fish is considered a delicacy, and is highly appreciated. Upon this question of diet being referred to the Board, it was decided to give every patient a choice of meat or fish, instead of substituting meat if fish was disliked—a wise regulation which has been strictly enforced by the Sister-in-charge.

Then a contemporary, from whom we greatly regret to differ, and whom it is very unusual to find making incorrect statements, says, "No one can uphold a practice which enables a Nurse to . . . keep the register of cases." Our inquiries showed us that this duty was kindly undertaken by the Sister-in-charge for a few months in order to help the Secretary during a great press of work. But our contemporary continues—"or to take upon herself the task of deciding when the condition of patients is such as to necessitate the summoning of their friends to the bedside."

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This statement conveys an incorrect impression of the facts. The Rule for summoning the friends stands, that "the Sister-in-charge shall send," that is, the messenger, "for them," not that she shall *decide* when the condition of the patient requires that they shall be summoned. A like duty devolves upon the Sisters of many of our large Hospital wards, and we learn that, upon the proposal that the wise rule should be altered, the Board decided that, owing to the distance from the Hospital at which the medical attendants of many of the paying patients resided, in justice to the patients and their friends, it should continue in force.

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Those amongst her colleagues who have the benefit of her personal acquaintance, and who admire and revere her for the splendid and self-sacrificing work which she has accomplished for Nursing and Nurses in the Dark Continent, will unite with us, we feel sure, in conveying to Sister HENRIETTA heartfelt sympathy and unabated admiration for the great example which she has always been to the members of her profession.

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WE announce with pleasure the fact that Sister ALICIA, of All Saints', has been deputed to act as Sister-in-charge of the New Somerset Hospital, at Cape Town. Her old friends at "Barts," and her numerous pupils during the time in which she acted with such singular success as Lady Superintendent of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, will welcome her back as an active colleague in Nursing work with gratification. We deeply begrudge her retirement from the Nursing ranks, and rejoice sincerely that her great talents are again available for the sick and the suffering.

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It has been lately said that "epidemics are nature's health officers." If so, these providentially appointed officials have been doing admirable work in the Marylebone district. Since the outbreak of smallpox, premises that looked as if they had never before made acquaintance with brush or house flannel, have had a marvellous "spring cleaning,"

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