

Many women may be found to undertake the position for the love of the work, and their interest in the poor sick. But, this does not relieve the authorities of a serious attempt at Nurse-sweating, which would be bad enough under ordinary circumstances, but becomes infinitely more serious when it is remembered that any Nurse working amongst typhoid patients in the present unhealthy condition of the town, is running a serious risk to her own health.

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Several local Nurses have determined, on the strength of their indignation against such a sum being offered at such a time to "thoroughly-trained Nurses," to join without delay the R.B.N.A., which, it is to be hoped, will offer in the near future, some protection against this very common system of "Nurse-farming."

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Placards were posted about the town of Newport when the epidemic first assumed serious proportions, under the signature of the Mayor, enjoining the inhabitants to carefully boil all milk and water. But, notwithstanding this recommendation, it is a well-known fact that none of the drinking water supplied to the children at the Board and public schools has been boiled or purified in any other way, and, as a consequence, the percentage of attacks and deaths among school children has been very large indeed.

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Successive "crops" of cases of diphtheria and typhoid have been showing themselves in the town since February, but it needed a real outbreak to rouse the local authorities to action, and their action has been very tardy. Although the outbreak is now in its fifth week, no attempt has been made towards disinfecting the houses, bedding, or clothing of the patients in the poorer districts, and the germs of diphtheria and typhoid are being left undisturbed in dirty insanitary homes, flanked, as so many of the Newport houses are, by the most evil pigstyes, which have received, for many years, very little cleaning or attention.

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Pigstyes abound in some of the most thickly populated streets of the town, but whenever a complaint is made by sickened neighbours, they are told that there is no "bye-law in the town which would enable the authorities to interfere."

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Some concerted action should be taken in order to rescue the Isle of Wight from the odium that is falling upon it. In a rather important, though small, town of the island, an investigation, made some days since, brought to light the fact that the town water main was carried right through the town sewer, a hole having been made in the sewer pipe to allow of the passage through of the water

main; and, in addition, it was found that the water pipe was jointed *inside the sewer.*

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"Oh! yes. We have partly discontinued taking private patients. We find it pays so much better to hire our Nurses out for private work." Thus spoke an old-fashioned senior surgeon as he proudly conducted a party of visitors round his pet Hospital—a small provincial one. He showed, with conscious appreciation of the shrewdness of the Committee, how a set of rooms, which formerly was set apart for patients of a better class who could afford to contribute towards their treatment, had been converted into bedrooms for Nurses on the private staff. The old northern surgeon's arithmetic was indisputable. "You see," he said, "we could get from thirty shillings to two pounds a week for a private patient, and often more. But then, there was his keep, his nursing, his fire and lights, and only one patient to a room. *Now*, we have two Nurses in each room, and we make a pound or thirty shillings a week out of each. *Their* feeding costs very little because they are generally engaged. Fire and lights amount to very little, and our nursing staff is smaller. Oh!" he concluded, "it's a fine thing for a Hospital to have a large number of private Nurses to 'hire out.'"

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The term "hiring out" is a delightful one. It just expresses the truth of the system without any beating about the bush for polite terms. The tradesman "hires out" glass and china for dinner parties, "rout-seats" and red baize for balls. And, with much the same commercial object, the Committee of Hospitals like the one in question, "hire out" their Nurses—or, to speak more exactly, their Probationers—and thus reap a large harvest from the sweating of labour. And, from the point of view of the public, it is not only a question of labour-sweating, but that, so frequently, the sweated labour is absolutely unskilled and untrained, and the Nurses sent out by such Institutions are in reality trying their "prentice hands" on the dangerously sick and dying. How long will the public permit this commercial cheating?

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THE *Trained Nurse* for November, our American contemporary, is, as usual, well up to date, and gives a most interesting account of the work of Dr. E. B. WITTE, the author of the law which grants all Training Schools for Nurses in the State of New Jersey the right to confer upon their graduates the degree of Medical and Surgical Nurse. It says:—

About the time of his graduation from the Ophthalmic College, the Trenton City Hospital—born of a necessity to relieve the suffering of the poor of the city—was struggling for existence; a new field of labour opening, his deep interest being most apparent, the board of managers elected him superintendent, which office he has since creditably filled,

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