

basis will, I feel sure, support the most vigorous and useful Council. Of late the Special Hospitals have suffered snubs and difficulties innumerable, and if it was not for the uncontrovertible fact that we please and satisfy the public, we should have been snuffed out long ago—and we please and satisfy the public because we do our branch of the work well. Take the Children's Hospitals, which are organised as to hours, nursing, etc., to suit the welfare of the little patients, and compare the organisation with that of a Children's Ward, or the nursing of scattered units in our General Hospitals, for the comfort and well-being of the patients and the special education of their attendants there is no comparison. 'I have tried baith,' as the Scotchman remarked about honesty and dishonesty. Again, we workers in Special Hospitals are somewhat weary of the much vaunted autocracy of the 'Nurse Training Schools'—which means General Hospitals—Training Schools, only, be it remembered, in limited branches of our profession. How many Nurses certificated after a three years' curriculum in a General Hospital know anything of the details of nursing zymotic diseases, gynæcology, obstetrics, nervous diseases or attendance on the insane? Can these women be called 'thoroughly trained Nurses'? I doubt it, and yet the Special Hospitals, devoting themselves to the study and alleviation of these diseases, are not classed as training schools. Why?— I intend to join this Matrons' Council on purpose to ask and have this important question answered, and with the hope also of helping my revered colleagues to evolve a system of *co-operative* training, which will indeed entitle a Nurse to call herself 'thoroughly trained.'

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We should be grateful for more communications in this clear and forcible strain, and feel sure our correspondent will be a most useful addition to the Matrons' Council.

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WE are glad to see the Provincial Press is beginning to echo our wail concerning the misappropriation of Nurses' uniforms. The *Licensed Victuallers' Mirror* remarks:—

"I am sure that there are a number of sham Nurses going about in Town, for certainly no medical officer would permit in a Hospital ward the fripperies in costume and hair-dressing that I have lately seen worn in the streets by young women, ostensibly Nurses. I must admit that their costumes, in various colours, are very fetching, and the wide white collars and cuffs very dainty; but there is in many cases a something about the wearers which has excited my suspicions as to their being genuine Nurses. Perhaps, when the Public Prosecutor's department is done with the massage scandal, it will look into the Hospital Nurse question. There is reason to fear that a few black sheep are bringing discredit upon what should be, and, no doubt is, in the main, an honourable calling."

The *Eastern Daily Press* has also a few remarks to make on the same subject:—

"There is a good deal of comment on the extraordinary increase in the number of Hospital Nurses. A cynical physician of my acquaintance says that many women who are not Nurses wear the costume to attract attention, and that the real Nurses wear it in season and out of season with the same object. At the theatre the other evening, two girls sat in the dress circle, attired in light print dresses, large white aprons, and white caps with ribbons. Truth compels me to say that had they been dressed like ordinary playgoers, they would have attracted no notice. As it was, their conspicuous and distinctly odd appearance drew all eyes."

We have also seen Nurses at the theatre in their Hospital dress, and there is no doubt that to wear such a costume at the play is a gross breach of good taste.

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The *Birmingham Daily Post* also protests against advertising vendors of quack "goods" assuming Nurses' uniforms, and thereby stimulating the sale of their wares to the poor and ignorant.

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We are glad to learn that Miss LANDALE, who has always held strong views on the subject of uniforms, is bringing the matter before the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association, the next meeting of which, however, does not take place until October.

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A correspondent from Melbourne writes:—

"Some months ago, when the St. Vincent's Sisters of Charity opened their new temporary Hospital, I remarked how unnecessary it was, when one of the leading Hospitals had, and has still, a whole pavilion of six wards standing empty, not having funds to open it. The same thing was said by many who deplored the fresh tax on the charitably disposed, whose finances are low, and their chief regret is that their gifts are so necessarily restricted. One feels it is unfair to hear the cry raised, under these circumstances, that "the wells of benevolence in Melbourne are running dry." They may not, who write this, have been heavy losers; it is easy to write about others. Perhaps they forget that the wells of prosperity went very dry in 1893; but we cannot complain, even now, that Victorians close their hearts to their distressed brethren. Some of the older Institutions are recovering themselves, the last news from the Women's Hospital was more cheering; but we would be glad if that most deserving of great Charities, the Heidelberg Hospital for Incurable Consumptive and Cancer patients, were better supported. The endeavours of the Committee to do as much as they have been doing lately for their poor patients is worthy of all praise. We will hope the Balls to be given shortly in aid of it, and the St. Vincent's Hospital, may considerably add to their funds. Many really good Nurses are suffering much from the effects of the general depression, some being very many weeks out of employment. Those who can get anything to do in England, my advice to them is to *stay there*. Melbourne and Sydney are both overdone with Nurses. If the three years' system of training were only more general, it would be a check on this, as well as a great advantage to the Nurses themselves."

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