

THE new Thirty-nine Articles for Nurses :—

In a recently published Nursing book the following extraordinary dialogue occurs, which presumably is intended to be committed to memory by Probationers and Nurses. It is a remarkable sort of catechism, with the dull, didactic ring about it of Magnall's Questions, or Sandford and Merton.

Q. For what period are professional Nurses trained before they are properly qualified?

A. Three years.

Q. Where are these years spent?

A. In the wards of the large hospitals.

Q. Is it work to be lightly undertaken?

A. No; it is very hard, laborious work.

Q. Is it a good opening for woman's work?

A. Yes, upon the whole it may be fairly described as good. The pay is good, and as a general rule Nurses are kindly treated, and their services gratefully appreciated by the majority of those whom they are called upon to serve.

Q. Is it always a bed of roses?

A. No; many exacting and unreasonable people are to be met with, who interfere with the Nurse, who expect her to be a paragon of perfection, never requiring rest or sleep, and continually bubbling over with sympathy.

Q. Are Nurses ever to blame for faults which may have been found or for unkindness received?

A. Unfortunately this question must be answered in the affirmative. Some Nurses are heavy sleepers, forgetful, lazy, selfish as regards their own comforts, expecting to be waited upon by the servants of the household, inattentive to the doctor's orders, gossiping, and in other respects well calculated to damage their calling in the eyes of the public.

Q. Is there any remedy for such evils?

A. Yes: a faithful discharge of their duty on the part of the public. If the Nurse is thoroughly inefficient, a quiet and temperate report should be made to the Superintendent of the Home to which she belongs. If efficient generally, but possessed of some one fault, the medical man may be asked to speak to her quietly and kindly; if the same fault is still observed, she should be exchanged.

Q. If fair ground for complaint exists, ought the public to refrain from reporting unfavourably to the Superintendent, fearing that they may damage the woman by doing so?

A. No.

Q. What should Nurses be careful to bear constantly in mind?

A. To be faithful in the discharge of their duties; to give as little trouble as they possibly can to the household generally. To remember the welfare of the profession to which they belong depends upon the impression they make, upon the minds of those they serve, by their

patience, quietness, gentleness, conscientious discharge of their duties, adaptability to their surroundings, and general good conduct.

The above extract gives a fair sample of the kind of moral precept taught by these Articles of Faith. To use an Americanism, "this kind of halo" would not fit many women!

In a recent number of a cock-sure contemporary, there appeared a statement to the effect that "the Governors of Addenbrooke's Hospital were about to spend £5,000 on the new Nurses' quarters, and that two munificent donations had been given for that purpose." Then followed a criticism on the waste of so much money. As one of the Governors remarked on reading it, "It would have been a pretty good sort of a statement if it had any foundation, but unfortunately for the veracity of the paragraph, the Governors are *not* going to spend £5,000, and two munificent donations have *not* been given for the improvement of the Nurses' barracks."

This incident reminds one of Buffon's criticism of the French Encyclopædia which defined a crab as "a red fish which walks backwards." Buffon said the description would have been a good one, only for the facts that "crabs are *not* fishes, that they are *not* red, and that they do *not* walk backwards!"

No doubt in journalism of the kind in question, it is a great drawback to be "hampered by facts,"

A COUNTRY private Nurse writes:—

"I should like to ask the Editor or some of the readers of the NURSING RECORD whether I am bound to accede to the request of an asthmatic patient that I should smoke cigarettes for his relief. I am very devoted to my patient, and am quite willing to make any reasonable sacrifice for his benefit, so long as I do not endanger my professional pride and position. The smoking of cigarettes is personally objectionable to me, and is apt to have a very nauseating effect, but, while I might consent to waive my individual prejudice for the sake of the benefit that would accrue to the invalid under my care, it would appear to me that I should certainly jeopardise the honour of my cloth were I to go about with a strong odour of tobacco issuing from cap, gown, and hair. Please, fellow Nurses, tell me what you think?"

WE have just received, as we go to press, the Report of the Meeting of American Superintendents, lately held at Boston, U.S.A. We hope

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)