

and untiring devotion to duty, and to the practical knowledge of the work necessary on the part of educated women, that the marvellous progress and reform in the Nursing Departments of our Hospitals have been effected. Those of us who have kept notes of our personal experiences during the last twenty years must recognise the significance and value of such work.

But we cannot yet afford to rest on our oars. Much has been done, much *more* remains to do, and it is a matter of immense congratulation that in response to Miss Isla Stewart's initiative the Council of Matrons has been formed, consisting already of eighty earnest women, prepared to devote their spare time and ripe experience to effecting progress and reform in Nursing matters.

THE Quarterly Court of Governors of the London Hospital, held last week, received with much satisfaction various reports from the House Committee, showing that improvements continue to be made in the Nursing department. The net profit on the Private Nursing Institution has now fallen to little more than £1,100 as against £1,700 only two years ago. It is much to be hoped that in time the Governors of this magnificent hospital will realise the grave injustice of sweating their Nurses even to this greatly diminished extent.

MR. BURDETT'S announcement that he is about to compile, in conjunction with a small committee of medical men and matrons, an official list of Nurses, has naturally aroused the keenest interest in the Nursing profession. The greatest surprise is being expressed on all sides that he has not published the names of the official positions held by the members of his "small Committee." Surely he is not ashamed of his fellow-workers? Surely his fellow-workers do not object to their names being associated with that of Mr. Henry C. Burdett? Yet if both these assumptions are untenable, why should such extraordinary secrecy be maintained? We have no hesitation in saying that Mr. Burdett should for his own sake, publish at once the names of his "small Committee."

WE receive constant letters of comment and complaint concerning the unjustifiable use of the trained Nurses' uniform by various domestic servants, and it seems that this practice, like the influenza, now rages not only in London, but in some country districts. A walk down Harley Street and Wimpole Street, however, is sufficient proof of how prevalent the custom has become. For instance, issuing from the maisonette of an obstetric physician in Wimpole Street, we observed last week a damsel attend

her master to his carriage. Facing her, we observed the badge (until recent date) of the trained Nurse, a modest cap *tied under the chin, à la Bart's*. When she made a hasty retreat indoors, we observed, however, that she also wore the well-starched streamers which distinguish the Sisters of the London Hospital; so that this ambitious damsel was determined that from all points of view she would display the headgear of the trained Nurse to which she had not a shadow of right. Again, we followed in the wake of a damsel prancing down Harley Street from the pillar-post, attired in Nurse's cap (tied under the chin) and apron, but whose down-trodden shoes and well-ventilated stockings were hardly consistent with the character. The fact is, and it is to be regretted, that this pirating of attire is permitted to the domestic servants of several medical men in the vicinity, and we are of opinion that it should at once be discouraged by those who hold the profession of Nursing in the respect which it deserves.

A CORRESPONDENT writes from the country :

"The projected improvements at our hospital are bewildering and manifold. From time immemorial, according to time-honoured custom, the hospital linen has been laboriously and piece-meal aired before large ward fires, and the Nurses' arms have ached, as only the muscles of tired Nurses can ache, from the extra burden entailed on them by the want of a central drying room. One of the Governors, whose sympathies have been aroused on the subject, brought the matter before the weekly Board with a view to improvement, but he was promptly assured that the system could not be altered, owing to want of space. Nothing daunted, he set out on a tour of inspection, and the result of his exertions was the discovery of a Turkish bath-room, which has long since fallen into disuse. Here was the space; which this lesser Columbus has lost no time in utilising for the airing of the whole linen of the hospital, thus deserving the gratitude of the present and succeeding generations of Nurses, whose own work is sufficiently absorbing without having added to it some of the labours of the laundry.

"The same chivalrous gentleman has long been pained by the fact that large meat and dinner tins, when sent up in lifts to the various ward floors, had perforce, in the absence of any proper appliance, to be carried by the Nurses to the kitchens, and then dispensed round the wards. A suggestion was made that the Nurses might gracefully balance these self-same tins on their heads; but the ungallant suggestor forgot that the carefully goffered caps might thus have their beauty marred, and as one of the Probationers said 'as it is we are always splashing our gowns and aprons with gravy.' So a proposition was prepared by the kindly Governor, that a dinner lorry might be provided for each floor; the one lorry to serve for the various wards on each story. But the system did not work harmoniously, and the 'revolting Sisters' humbly petitioned that each ward might have its own lorry, which petition the generous Board most

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