

because they had publicly expressed their sympathy with their Matron—and we are of opinion that had the Guardians persisted in their policy of stifling all expressions of opinion upon the part of the Nursing Staff, concerning the deplorable controversy, still further trouble would have resulted. We can heartily congratulate them, however, upon the present result, and only hope they will exercise a more tolerant spirit in their future action concerning the Matron.

THE following advertisement lately appeared in the *Morning Post* :—

BRIGHTON.—Will the Young Lady who formed the acquaintance of two of Slater's Female Detectives, dressed as Nurses, on Wednesday last, on the Promenade at Brighton, please COMMUNICATE immediately, as promised, to Mr. HENRY SLATER, No. 1, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

How are the mighty fallen! Indeed, the Nurses' uniform question becomes more complicated daily. The chance that in an hour of sickness the skeleton which proverbially lurks in every family cupboard may be detected by the trained Nurse, and "communicated" to Mr. Henry Slater of Basinghall Street, will indeed add another terror to her ministrations in the minds of a suspicious public. We wonder if these enterprising females will take the precaution of placing their names and qualifications upon "Burdetts's Official Directory."

A CORRESPONDENT writes :—

"I am very much interested in the proposed competitions which have been announced in the RECORD, and I should like to ask if it would not be possible to arrange a competition so as to get a consensus of views on the out-door uniform of a Nurse. I think we must all feel agreed that the present style is decidedly 'floppy' and untidy. The sleeveless cloak is very ugly and uncomfortable, and in the winter it is bitterly cold, as there is nothing between our arms and the biting wind but a thin cotton sleeve. Of course a Nurse in winter should have the sleeves lined with flannelette, but very few do so, with a consequence that is often most injurious to health. And there is another variety of cloak which is even open to more objections than the sleeveless ones, and that is the Mother Hubbard variety, whose sleeves are always on the look out for an opportunity to slit and tear. How one's sleeves *have* suffered in the fray of a simple knock at a door, or a climb up into a garden seat of a 'bus! The crossover or the woollen shawl under the cloak is a clumsy device for warmth which a little thought upon the cut and fashion of our outer garments might entirely obviate.

The Link Shell Truss Co., 171, Wardour Street, London, W., have a new truss. It is claimed that by this method of manufacture a truss is provided which will be more comfortable than the one in ordinary use and better able to adapt itself to the various movements of the body, especially if these are of a sudden character. The truss is fitted with a hip-joint regulator by means of which the pressure is increased or diminished as required and with a soft hollow shell pad perforated for ventilation. The Truss as thus completed is an efficient one.—*Lancet* August 4th, 1894.

Was it not Emerson who said that the knowledge of being well-dressed gives a woman a certain feeling of serenity which even religion does not bestow? While not accepting this extreme dictum as altogether true, it is certain that the consciousness of a well-fitting cloak and a becoming fashion of bonnet will go far to engender an easy dignity and an absence of clumsiness. It is therefore quite time that we Nurses should put our heads together and devise out of our artistic self-consciousness a type of out-door dress for Nurses that may be at the same time graceful and pretty, while it is simple and inexpensive.

The Hospital bonnet is by no means a success. If it be large, it is often a cross between the headgear of the Salvation Army and the historic bonnet of a Mrs. Gamp. If it be of the small variety, so often selected, it needs that the hair should be more daintily and carefully dressed than the average Nurse has time for.

The whole uniform for out of doors is hot in summer, and unbearably cold in winter; inartistic and unbecoming at all times. And oh! how gruesome is the aspect of the Nurse when she returns 'on duty' after a short airing on a wet day—the bottom of the skirt bedraggled and wet, the apron splashed with mud, and the collar and cuffs creased; and to add to her woeful appearance, it is by no means uncommon for the dye of the black cloak to have come off in streaks—notwithstanding that they have been warranted to be dyed with a 'fast black'—and the dusky bars on various parts of her attire neither add to her appearance, nor to the serenity of her temper.

Another grievance lies in the unfortunate choice so often bestowed by the Arbitrer of Fashions—or in other words the Matron—on the most impossible coloured and patterned prints. Where there are so many delightful possibilities of tone and design, it seems such unnecessary cruelty to cause the Nurses to don the dreary, sombre, servanty prints so often chosen.

'Would it be too much to ask,' our correspondent goes on to say, 'that a small committee of fashions should be constituted in each Hospital, with the Matron as Chairman, and some of the Sisters and Nurses acting as deputies from the whole staff. These ladies might then determine from time to time as to the necessary changes which should take place in the 'rig out' of the whole Nursing staff. Is it not to be regarded as a further grievance that nine yards of cotton is generally considered to be an ample dole of stuff wherewith to clothe the tall, the short, the stout, and the lean? And this, regardless of the fact that sleeves are so big and skirts are so full at the present time.'

WE are glad to observe that the County Hospital, Brighton, has had a prosperous year, having an increase of income of £902 9s. 10d. The Nursing Institute attached, now in its eighth year, has proved a complete success,

Reduction of Munson Typewriter prices from £21 to £12 12s., our Odell Typewriter reduced to 65s., particulars of both free.—LIN K. SHELL TRUSS Co., Surgical Instrument Makers.

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