

"So, my dear young lady, you mustn't complain if we find it necessary to curtail inducements to sentiment in our Institutions!"

"But what do *you* think about it?"

"I see you have found me out. I was trying to hedge, or as our friends, the Americans, would express it, I wanted to 'sit on the fence,' and give no hint of my own views. But if it will help the RECORD, a paper I admire immensely, I will just say that if all our staff were ladies and gentlemen we should have to make no unpleasant restrictions. Whether they were engaged or no we could rely on their instincts of honour and good breeding. But, as you know, a Hospital society is somewhat of a mixture, and the white sheep have to bear some of the penalties resulting from the actions of the black or the ill-bred. And so I think it quite wise to hedge our young people round with some difficulties, and think in the long run that very little injustice is done through the Nurse being requested to transfer her services to another Hospital. It is impossible to serve two masters, and the Nurse is certainly apt to lessen the discipline of her ward and relax some of her efforts, when she has love-making in her head. In another Hospital she would be alright, because the object of her affections would not be liable to come in at odd moments; it is that which is so unsettling."

"But why should the woman go and the man be left in possession of the field?"

"Well, of course, it would be difficult for him to break his terms and re-enter another Hospital."

"But surely the same would apply to a Nurse who wanted to complete her three years."

"Oh, well! it doesn't matter so much for her. Presumably she would give up her profession when she married, and so the certificate would not be essential. But," he concluded, laughing, "if she values the certificate more than the young man, let her put him off till she has concluded her three years."

"I should be really angry if you didn't come from my favourite little paper," said a charming Matron, well-known in London. "Goodness knows the Nurses are apt to get engaged quite soon enough without any suggestions on the subject from the RECORD. Why, when I came here first the Hospital was known as the 'matrimonial agency,' and I am doing my very best to live down such a reputation. I really think of advocating that Nurses should take the vow before they enter Hospital, and I often threaten my Committee that I will fill the wards with the plainest, most unlikely women I can find. Every Pro. who comes here has a good long lecture on the perils and uncertainties of married life, and on the neces-

sity for a woman to serve an apprenticeship of sound honest work before she thinks of getting married. I say to them: 'Do what you like afterwards, but start with a fair, honest determination to do your work with heart and soul, and enthusiasm. If you choose to think of marriage after you have "served your time," so much the better for the man who is lucky enough to get you.' But I will not have frivolities and half-heartedness, and a flippant desire to attract attention going on in my wards. A Hospital is the very last place in the world for such conduct. Amid the sick and the dying there should be a quiet, womanly serious dignity. If love comes out of that I have nothing to say. But I do think there is a frivolous, flighty tone among so many of our latter-day Nurses, and this reflects great discredit on our profession."

### Inventions, Preparations, &c.

#### "VIGOR CONSOMME."

THIS is a very useful preparation which can be obtained through any retail grocer from Bond Court House, Walbrook, E.C. It is put up in solid cakes, one of which, dissolved in a pint of hot water with a little salt added and boiled for five minutes, makes a most delicious soup. The form is especially convenient and the materials are excellent. We strongly recommend the preparation to the notice of Nurses, as it will form an agreeable change in the diet of an invalid from the customary beef tea preparations, and for travellers it would also be found a most nutritious and valuable form of nourishment.

#### MALTO-PEPTONE.

PREPARATIONS of Malto-peptone malt extract jelly alone and combined with cod liver oil have been submitted to us, and we have carefully tested them. The former is a very pleasant preparation and has decided advantages over the ordinary somewhat sticky syrup which is sometimes difficult to extract from a bottle—a fact which may be commended to the notice of those firms who produce this valuable remedy. It appears to be very pure and to contain the whole value of malted barley. It is therefore not only a valuable digestive, but also a very nutritive and strengthening food. Combined with cod liver oil it will be found to be a very convenient and palatable form in which to administer this important medicine. Children and invalids, we find, take it well, and, cut into small pieces, the jelly can be swallowed without leaving any unpleasant taste of oil in the mouth. Malto-peptone can be obtained through all chemists, or direct from the Malto-peptone Company, Needham Market, Suffolk.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)