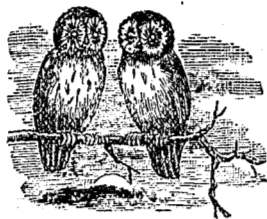


purpose of studying the women brick-makers and nail-makers of that region. I found at Lye, some of the finest specimens of well-developed women I ever saw anywhere, women who had spent all their lives in brick-yards or before the forge, swinging the blacksmith's hammer and making the anvil ring. These women never go in out of the rain for fear they will get wet and take cold, and although working in mud and water a great span of the time, have no other protection for their feet than shoes, often full of holes and almost without soles, and wholly inadequate to protect the feet from water. They are constantly engaged in lifting heavy weights.

(To be continued.)

Matrons in Council.



WE are asked to remind our readers that it was requested that the list of questions sent out by the Matrons' Council, *re* a uniform curriculum of education for Nurses, be returned by the 16th inst. A paper on the subject will be read by Miss Isla

Stewart at the first Sessional meeting of the Matrons' Council, to be held in London on Thursday, October 24th.

We are glad to see that American Nurses, prior to further organisation, are being advised to study a simple book on Parliamentary Law, written by Miss Harriette L. Shattuck. This reminds us that Mrs Eva McLaren has again kindly consented to hold schools of method in connection with the Matrons' Council in the autumn, and that those desiring to attend the class are requested to communicate with the Hon. Secretary, at 22, Cheyne Gardens, S.W. We would recommend the study of the "Chairman's Handbook," by Sir Reginald F. D. Palgrave, K.C.B.

Appointments.

MISS E. ASTON, R.B.N.A., has resigned her position of Lady-Superintendent of the Strangers' Hospital at Rio de Janeiro, and has been succeeded by Miss A. Jackson, who has been promoted from the post of Sister to that of Sister-in-charge. Miss Jackson was trained and certificated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and is a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association and a Registered Nurse.

Miss Emma Cann has been appointed Matron of the Batley and District Cottage Hospital; she was trained at the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth, and has lately held the post of Sister to The Hospital for Women, Soho Square, W.

Home Hospitals.

SOME IDEALS.—THE SUPERINTENDENT.

HOSPITALS for paying patients are becoming more and more used by physicians and surgeons in the Metropolis and large country towns, and more and more appreciated by the educated public generally. In London, a few years ago, these institutions were few, and conducted so entirely on unprofessional lines, that they did not meet the needs of the better classes for trained Nursing, when they were advised that such care was necessary for their relief or recovery. The reason was not far to seek. These so-called Nursing Homes were usually the financial speculations of women who, never having been trained as Nurses, and probably never having entered a hospital, were totally ignorant of the details of Nursing which they professed to provide, and for which they charged fees. The difficulty in some Homes was partly overcome by the lady of the house engaging a trained Nurse to help her, paying her a meagre salary, and profiting by her skilled experience in the Home, on the same lines as she farmed out a staff of private Nurses. Now it cannot be denied that such a system is unjust in professional work, and one by which the sick are precluded from obtaining the careful Nursing for which they pay. This abuse is still flourishing in our midst, and will continue to do so until trained Nurses are registered by the State, after a definite curriculum of education and certification, and until medical men recognise much more clearly than they do at present that their patients are more efficiently nursed under the supervision of a trained Superintendent than as the inmates of expensive boarding houses, which charge high fees for professional care which it is impossible for them to bestow. We would lay down the principle, therefore, without fear of contradiction, that the Ideal Superintendent must be a *Trained Nurse*.

But not every trained Nurse can develop into the Ideal Superintendent—far from it. The combined qualities necessary for such a position are possessed by very few women. First of all give us a gentlewoman—a very inclusive term, significant of courtesy, refinement, firm will power; again, a very liberal education in men and matters, and, for choice, also in letters; the power of organization, with its capacity for business details and appreciation of practical management, the rare combination of highly developed physical and *nervous* force, quite apart from the brute force under which ideals have remained crushed for generations. In no position has a woman to *give* more than the Superintendent of Nursing of a home for educated sick people. Each patient is a highly strung nervous individuality, and absorbs the psychical energy of his or her attendant, like a vampire. The extreme nerve exhaustion experienced after long personal contact with such invalids is a sure sign that the vital force which is so valuable for their recovery has been expended by the Nurse. The woman who does not impart such magnetic influence will never be either an ideal Nurse, or Superintendent.

If this be granted, the theory that the qualities of the *hausfrau* only are necessary for the Superintendent of a Home Hospital will be recognised as totally erroneous.

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