

weight admitted having sat upon the person referred to until told to get off by the Nurse. Mr. Poole said the Board had the fullest confidence in Dr. Iliffe, medical officer, who wrote that he saw no necessity for the appointment. Miss Hurlston asked to be excepted from the statement that all the members had the fullest confidence in the medical officer. The motion was lost by eight votes to ten.

At the Fourth Annual Fête, promoted in the interests of the Rushden Nursing Association, an interesting feature of the attractions provided was the Baby Show, in which prizes were offered for the finest baby under 3 months old, and for the best kept baby not over 12 months. In this show the entrants, numbering about twenty, were judged by Mrs. Rouse Orlebar and Miss A. G. Hunt, a former Nurse to the Association, and their awards were very popular.

A washing competition (not of babies, but of clothes) had been arranged, but was abandoned, as there were not sufficient entries. No doubt the women attending the fête felt that laundrying entered sufficiently into their every-day lives, so that they would not devote the precious hours of a fête day at the wash-tub. The members of the Wellingborough St. John Ambulance Brigade gave a display, and the process of bandaging patients with various fractures was watched with interest by a large number of visitors. It is hoped a good sum has been realised by the novel character of the entertainment.

In journalism the months of August and September are often dubbed "the silly season," because from dearth of events, papers are frequently filled with "large sunflowers," "record turnips," and so on. A writer in the *Liverpool Express* must be suffering from the "silly" epidemic, when she (or he) attempts to instruct Nurses in their duties in the following manner: "In giving food or medicine, never say 'Shall I get your medicine now?' and do not say 'Are you in pain, now, dear?' 'Will you have the door open?' &c." We wonder when the lay public will appreciate that trained Nurses are not in need of such elementary suggestions. The writer of the above "baby talk" goes on to say, "Most patients object very strongly to having nursing or medical papers brought into their rooms," to which we would answer that "most patients" would be ashamed to exercise any tyrannical authority over the literature which their Nurses choose to read. It is quite conceivable that medical and technical papers, with pathological and surgical illustrations,

should not be obtrusively read, and should never be left about the sick-room. But it would be a preposterous proposition that a Nurse may not read in the sick-room a paper which helps her to learn more of her work, and keeps her well up in her professional knowledge.

On account of the objection felt by some nervous patients to the presence of medical and surgical papers in their rooms, some private Nurses slip the paper into a brown paper cover, which they keep on purpose; others have an ornamental letter writing case, which contains their *Lancet* or *British Medical Journal*, and they are careful not to leave such papers open on table or chair when they go off duty. We have seen some rather "new" private Nurses who thought that a display of surgical and pathological "pictures" in their papers gave the patients and their friends a high conception of the Nurse's scientific attainments. But we think this genus of Nurse somewhat rare. The aim of a true Nurse is not to wound the nervous susceptibilities of her patient, and so long as people have such an unaccountable horror of facing the facts of their corporeal existence, so long must allowance be made for their peculiarities. But the suggestion that a Nursing paper could wound the sensibilities of the most exacting patient must come from one who is very ignorant of invalids—or of Nursing papers.

Mrs. ELIZABETH BROOKES, of Norwich, when under the influence of alcohol, appears to be a woman of some courage. Recently she was brought up and fined for an assault on a Nurse at Thorpe Asylum, the prosecution being undertaken by the asylum authorities for the protection of their attendants and the safety of the inmates under their charge. It appears that three Nurses were out for a walk in charge of forty inmates of the asylum, when they had to pass the house of Mrs. Brookes, who came out into the road and assaulted Nurse Frances, and behaved in such an exaggerated manner, that one or two of the patients being frightened, ran away. One of the other Nurses gave chase, recaptured them, and, returning, rescued Nurse Frances from the hands of her assaulter—not before the Nurse had been considerably beaten and shaken. Mrs. Brookes explained to the Bench that it was only her "playful manner." In order to correct her sense of fun and, as it was the twenty-fourth time she had been brought before them when under the influence of "good spirits," in both senses of the word, the Bench inflicted a fine of twenty shillings or a month's hard labour.

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