

well put a poultice on a water-butt. It would, perhaps, have the effect of drawing the hoops off."

We know nothing of the circumstances which have produced friction between the Guardian and the Nurse, and it is a pity that a man should make himself absurd, if he desires to effect reforms. We must own that we consider that whatever order is placed by a doctor on the board of a patient should be carried out by the Nurse in attendance, to the letter of the law, and that to leave a hardened, cold, comfortless poultice on a patient's chest for six hours is not efficient treatment.

Doubtless the Nurse in question was quite incapable of carrying out the details of Nursing desirable for the comfort of the numerous patients—"not being able to be in two places at once"—and at the root of the matter we should find upon inquiry that more Nurses are necessary, if the patients are to be really nursed in an efficient manner, and the medical man's orders carried out. The system prevalent in numerous Poor Law Infirmaries and sick wards, of expecting that "bricks can be made without straw," and that one woman can do the work of ten, is the real reason of the constant complaints concerning these institutions with which every newspaper rings. Let the Nurses follow the straightforward and conscientious example of Nurse Doran, of Worcester, to which we lately alluded, and refuse to be made responsible for work which it is impossible for one pair of hands to accomplish.

We last week alluded to the danger of infection from the handling of books from circulating libraries. The following report from the *Provincial Medical Journal* is instructive:—

"A young Russian *savant*, named Trouskoliavski, impressed by the fact that in England the genesis of certain cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria had been traced to the books of a public library, decided to embark on a bacteriological study of the question, and has embodied the results of his research in a thesis which he presented for his doctorial degree at St. Petersburg during the current year. In the first place microbial analysis showed that blank books and printed works are equally free from the mischievous organisms when they first leave the premises of the manufacturer; but, on the other hand, when the former have been made use of for hospital purposes, and the latter have circulated amongst patients, bacteria will be found adhering to them in multitudes. In M. Trouskoliavski's experiments the animalcules averaged forty-three to each square centimetre of paper, and although the majority of them were harmless, still pathogenetic specimens were also found, such

as the streptococcus, and the bacillus of tubercle. Though fixed to the paper these microbes are far from being harmless, for they conserve their vitality for lengthened periods. The young microscopist found that when placed on a dry sterilized sheet, the comma bacillus retained its vitality and virulence during from five to fourteen days; the bacillus of typhus fever for sixty-three days; that of diphtheria thirty-eight days, and the streptococcus ninety-eight days. It is evident, therefore, that the widespread habit of turning leaves by the aid of a saliva-moistened finger and thumb is about as dangerous as it is uncultured."

At the last council meeting of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses, the following programme was arranged for the third annual convention, to be held in Philadelphia, February 12th and 13th, 1896.

(1) "A National Association for Nurses and its Legal Organisation,"—Miss L. L. Dock, late Superintendent of Nurses, Cook County Hospital, Chicago, Ill.

(2) "A Statistical Report of working hours in Training Schools,"—Miss M. A. Nutting, Superintendent of Nurses, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Md.

(3) "Training School Registries,"—Miss Louise Darche, Superintendent New York City Training School for Nurses, Blackwell's Island.

(4) "Limitation of Pupil Nurses' duties in caring for male patients,"—Miss L. W. Quintard, late Superintendent of Nurses, New Haven Hospital, New Haven, Conn.

(5) "Should Undergraduates be sent out to Private Duty?"—Miss Isabel McIsaac, Superintendent of Nurses, Cook County Hospital, Chicago, Ill.

(6) Uniforms—Miss Marion E. Smith, chief Nurse, Philadelphia Hospital.

Miss L. L. Drown and Miss M. McKechnie were selected to lead in the discussion of the several papers. Those appointed for special discussion were as follows:

The National Association and its Legal Organisation—Mrs. Hunter Robb, Cleveland, Ohio; Miss L. Walker, Philadelphia.

Training School Registries—Miss A. S. Brennan, New York, N. Y.; Miss A. A. Hintze, Orange, N. J.

Limitation of Pupil Nurses' duties in caring for male patients—Miss Plumer, Hartford, Conn.; Miss Irene H. Sutcliffe, New York, N. Y.

Should undergraduates be sent out to Private Duty?—Miss L. Richards, Hartford, Conn.; Miss S. F. Palmer, Boston, Mass.

Uniforms—Miss E. S. Collier, Philadelphia, Pa.; Miss M. A. Snively, Toronto, Canada.

Further arrangements will be made later, of which due notice will be given.

In Scotland a letter of admission to a Hospital is known as Hospital "lines." Many people not acquainted with this custom have been somewhat mystified when reading Institution and District Nursing reports, to notice under the head of donations—"Two Hospital lines from A. S." "Eight applicants supplied with Hospital lines," &c.

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