

that the post has been gained by influence, and that injustice has been done, for the 'present selected candidate' rested entirely on her own merits and on the good opinion of others."

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Our remarks concerning the force of "influence" in gaining the post of Matron, were used in a general sense and did not allude to any particular case; and we feel sure that many of our readers have suffered from a sense of injustice in seeing women with inferior qualifications preferred before them for important Nursing appointments. We know that interest is all important under the present system, and where canvassing the Committee is permitted. We are aware also that the selection of a Matron is a very great difficulty to a Committee of men—"appearances being deceitful," and testimonials not always models of veracity, so that there is little hope of reform in this matter.

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MR. MURRAY BRAIDWOOD, in his admirable article in the *Lancet* on the necessity for a Naval Ambulance Association, says: "The proper and efficient treatment and Nursing of sick and wounded persons 'on board ship' necessitates the arrangement not only of an efficient naval *medical* service, but also that of an equally efficient naval *Nursing* service. The medical care (by Nurses as well as by medical men) of sick and wounded persons on board ship should be managed by an organisation entirely independent of extraneous influences, educated to its special work, and devoting its entire energies to such work."

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Mr. Braidwood sketches out delightful plans for the comfort and care of sick and wounded on Hospital ships, and has drawn out plans whereby ships could be made most comfortable resting places, engines and screws being specially stowed away out of hearing of the patients. Considering the revelations that have been made as to the hardships endured by sick soldiers during their transport from India, it is surely time our Government began to rouse to the necessity of making special provision for the accommodation of fever-stricken and sick soldiers ordered home on invalid furlough.

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A COMMITTEE of the Walsall Board of Guardians has recently visited the Steyning Union Infirmary, to inspect and report on the Nursing system there, with a view to the adoption of a similar scheme at Walsall. At Steyning the Head Nurse, under the Medical Officer, has entire control of the Infirmary building and

patients, and is directly responsible for her department to the Guardians. She also selects the Probationers, subject to the approval of the Guardians. Everything appears to be excellently carried out, and the Walsall Board have decided to initiate a similar scheme in their Infirmary. Of course there was some opposition to their decision—there are always opponents of reform—but the most curious argument against was used by Mr. Wightman, who said that "a scheme suitable for a fashionable place like Steyning would not suit Walsall." It is somewhat difficult to see what bearing a "fashionable neighbourhood" has upon the right of the sick poor in our Infirmaries to receive proper care!

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THE Rochdale Board of Guardians is considering the advisability of combining district Nursing with the work of nursing the sick poor in the Workhouse Infirmary. They think that many patients are now removed to the Infirmary who could well be nursed in their own homes; and the Guardians seem to prefer having such Nurses under their own control rather than to subscribe to a District Nursing Association. Dr. Pinch strongly urges the Board to increase the Nursing Staff at the Workhouse, so that they will be able to nurse both the sick in the Infirmary and the outside sick who are in receipt of outdoor relief. If such a scheme be adopted, it will be necessary that the Infirmary staff shall be as well trained as the Nurses of District Associations, otherwise the district poor will be worse off for the innovation.

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THE labour question forms one of the great trials and difficulties of Colonial life, and one of the greatest sources of complaint of English Nurses going to our Colonies to take Matronships and other Hospital positions is the intolerable trials caused by incapable and idle native or imported servants. A correspondent lately wrote from New Zealand: "I feel perfectly conscience-stricken when I remember the anathemas I used to utter, and the sermons I preached, on the shortcomings of English wardmaids, and I used to think the porter at my particular Hospital was the most aggravating individual it had ever been my misfortune to encounter. But, oh! could I but import them to my Hospital here! It seems to me by contrast that they were the most wonderful paragons of perfection, and I can almost see the halo round the head of the (by contrast) saint-like wardmaid who used, when I was 'Sister' to almost drive me to distraction! Contrast goes for so much."

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