

WE were under the impression that fringes, excepting among the jute girls of East London, who still cling to purple merino, crinolines, hairnets, feathers, and "bangs," were a thing of the past, but it appears our power of observation is defective, as a great fluttering in the dove-cots of a certain Hospital in London took place one night last week, when the Matron, who is a lady with a sense of the fitness of things, made a raid after bed time upon the cubicles of the Nursing staff, and requested each Nurse to remove the obnoxious "curling pins" with which her head was adorned, and doubtless her nerves tortured. We hope the result was satisfactory, and that the modest "parting" was duly presented to view on the following day.

IF a Central Hospital Board be formed in London, we sincerely hope the Hon. Sydney Holland will take an active part in its organisation. He has a nice, breezy, outspoken manner of expression, which is to our taste; and besides, has he not earned the confidence of the Nursing world by suggesting, in his excellent paper on the subject, that the Nursing profession shall have direct representation upon the Board? This is what we want—the power to manage our own affairs—and we shall never be happy till we get it.

AT the Annual Report of the Nottingham General Hospital attention was drawn to the much increased work which has yearly to be faced by the medical and Nursing staffs. Under the very able Matronship of Miss Knight, the nursing of the patients has reached a very high state of efficiency.

AT a largely-attended and influential meeting held at Blackburn with a view to establishing a scheme for district nursing in that town, the Right Rev. Bishop Cramer-Roberts said, "that such a scheme as they had before them had been what he might call the dream of his life since he came to the town. They had a Hospital Sunday in the churches, and he did not see why they should not have a District Nurses' Sunday."

A CASE accentuating the dangers of monthly Nurses and Midwives not realising the limitations of their work, came out recently.

Mr. A. Braxton Hicks held an inquiry at the Albany Hall, Kingston, touching the death of the newly-born child of John Goodwright. The jury returned a verdict that death was due to carelessness of Nurse Walker in administering ergot of rye without the advice of the medical man. On arriving the medical man found that his ergot bottle was empty and that the mother had symptoms of an overdose; she was in a state of

collapse, the extremities were cold, and the breathing was short and quick. She had to be delivered under chloroform with forceps by Mr. Mackeson. At first the Nurse flatly denied having given the ergot; subsequently she admitted having done so. Worse still, she had practised other methods for hastening delivery by kneeling twice on the patient, who was found by Mr. Mackeson to be extensively bruised on the abdomen, over the breast bone, and the last three ribs.

It is stated that "Nurse" Walker holds a certificate from Queen Charlotte's Lying-In Hospital, which makes the case only more serious. Had she been the "charwoman out of employment" type, there might have been some slight mitigation of her conduct. But, for a woman holding a certificate of any kind to kneel on and bruise her patient in an illegitimate desire to hasten labour, is a powerful argument in favour of some legislation which would make such conduct a criminal offence. "Nurse" Walker—by the way, we should like to know if she calls herself "Nurse" on the strength of her Queen Charlotte's certificate—may think herself fortunate that the jury considered the administration of ergot without medical advice, and the jumping on a patient in labour as "careless." It might have been classed under a very different heading, only that, happily, with great care the mother's life was saved.

MISS LOUISA TWINING, in an admirable letter to the *Pall Mall Gazette*, strongly advocating a larger and more efficient medical staff in the Workhouse Infirmary, says:—

"It seems to me a matter of common sense to insist upon the need of more than two medical men for a population of 500, or more, sick persons. It is difficult to understand the objection to admit consulting medical men from the outside, as well as a certain number of the more advanced students, who would thus be enabled to study the more advanced forms of disease and chronic decay, which are not to be found in our Hospitals."

THE Nurses of the City of London Union Infirmary have a just cause of complaint, and the constant resignations taking place there should lead the Guardians to consider the comfort of their Nursing staff. At the last meeting of the Guardians Miss M. J. Wennall, who resigned at the last Board meeting, wrote stating that her reason for suddenly leaving the Infirmary was that she was unable to perform the duties, they being, in her opinion, of too arduous a nature. As she plaintively put it, she was "too much tired to come back; she could not stand the work as ward Nurse." Another Nurse stated that "three or four hours daily is the average sleep that I get, my room being where there is so much disturbance; three times I have asked to be moved."

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