

an evening dance during January, and to be allowed to invite thirty male friends, to be selected by them under the direction and final sanction of Dr. Neal, the medical Superintendent.

Mr. Wade : Is this selection to be made amongst the Guardians? (Laughter.) The Clerk : It might be. Mr. Penfold moved that the sanction be granted. Mr. Bray seconded, and the Board agreed.

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Under these circumstances it is evident from the unequal numbers invited that during each round there must always be twenty fair Nurse "wallflowers" decorating the walls, which will certainly not tend towards the success of the evening's entertainment.

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At the same time we most earnestly hope that these Institution dances will soon be absolutely forbidden in Hospitals and Infirmaries. These Institutions are arranged for the reception of poor sick persons, and balls, parties, and noisy reunions of the staff, are quite out of place. Let Nurses dance, cycle, golf, or otherwise indulge in every innocent pleasure and amusement *when off duty*, but in our Hospitals and Infirmaries, a tone of true sympathy with suffering should be maintained. There is a coarse jar between death and dancing.

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Of giving good advice there is never any end, and Nurses more than any others are the recipients of large doses gratis. The latest advice to private Nurses is as follows :—

"Let me admonish you also to be careful, tactful in your going about the room and house of your patient. Do not use or derange the appurtenances of the household more than is absolutely necessary. Especially do not forget to treat *the cook well*. It will not be necessary exactly to follow the old proverb and kiss the cook, but approach her gently, obsequiously, slowly, until acquaintance so ripens that she may understand your good intentions, and lose her suspicion of any degree of usurpation."

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WE have received a letter from a lady (E. M. W.), in which she says :—

"Do you think it possible that any Hospital or Infirmary in London would receive me on payment as a *non-resident* Probationer? I could be on duty by 8 in the morning and could stop till 6 or 6.30 but not later, that would be ten hours' work with just a short interval for lunch. I do not take tea, so should not want that, and should not require any hours off. Surely ten hours a day (with the exception of Sundays) for three years would be sufficient to give me a good training. I do not suppose that I shall ever need to make money by it, but wish to take up the work of Nursing the London poor, gratis, in their homes. Probably I should have some months' training in a Lying-In Hospital after the three years. I made a great effort

two years ago to enter a Hospital as resident, but my family object to my being away from the home circle in the evenings. Therefore, as I most earnestly wish to have a thorough knowledge of Nursing, this plan of being non-resident seems the only way. I cannot learn from books. I thought perhaps some Matron might take me into her Infirmary, but perhaps I should get a better training at a Hospital. I know night work is all important, but would manage to get that in some-how. You see I should be working almost as long as any other Probationer, only my two hours off would be after 6. Will you kindly tell me if you think this plan feasible, and if I could thus *thoroughly* learn Nursing? I am 26 this year, so the time is getting short; after 30, I believe, ladies are not admitted. Will you also advise me as to whether I should get on better at an Infirmary or in a Hospital?"

We think there must be some Matrons who would be very glad of this lady's services, and who would perhaps write to us to that effect.

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THE Rochdale Board of Guardians are anxious to appoint a District Nurse of their own, while the promoters of the newly formed District Nurses' Association are desirous of receiving a subsidy from the Board for providing Nursing to patients for whom the Guardians are in a sense responsible. One of the arguments brought against the appointment by the Board of a Nurse of their own, is that it would very likely lead to the removal to the workhouse of cases which could be better looked after at home.

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THE Lichfield Nursing Institution continues to do good work, but has not yet been able to realise its ambition of acquiring a Nursing Home of its own with a couple of small wards for emergency cases and accidents. It hopes, however, that some liberal citizen may be found to supply the necessary funds for this scheme. Nurse Harding paid last year 6,264 visits. Over 500 dinners have been supplied to the sick, nearly the same number of gifts of beef-tea and of puddings, besides helpful presents of other food. The invalids' kitchen in connection with the Nursing Institute is an excellent supplement to the Nursing work done. The tariff seems to be moderate. Tickets for the invalids' kitchen can be obtained from Nurse Harding, at the Home, at the usual prices: 32 tickets for meat dinners, beef-tea, or mutton broth, £1; 16 tickets for ditto, 10s.; single tickets for ditto, 8d.; 40 tickets for puddings, £1; 20 tickets for ditto, 10s.; and single tickets, 6d.

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NEIMEYER, speaking of the good results obtained by the use of butter-milk in gastric catarrh, says, "when the patient is hungry let him eat butter-milk; when he is thirsty let him drink it."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)