

WE congratulate the Medical Superintendent, Dr. M. H. Quarry, and the Matron, Miss Griffiths, of the Lambeth Infirmary, that upon their representation the Guardians have wisely consented to adopt the term of three years' training for Probationers. It is indeed with a sense of great satisfaction that we are able, almost weekly, to announce progress in Nursing matters in our State Hospitals.

* * *

IN an interesting little book written by Dr. Temple Wright, in 1866, the following remarks are to be found on the subject of Sisters and Nurses:—"In Hospitals, Sisters generally wear a neat black serge dress (without crinoline, of course), white cap, apron, collar, and wristbands, noiseless shoes and a cheerful countenance. They give the patients their medicines, help the Nurses in dressing the *persons* of the more infirm patients, and the students in dressing their *wounds*; they shake hands with the doctor when he enters the ward, go round with him, and are sometimes found to know more about a case than even the Resident Medical Officer in charge. They feed some poor people, take care of their valuables, write letters for many, condole with relatives, and last, not least, conduct the musical part of the service in chapel.

* * *

The Nurses' costume is like that of the Sisters, only their dress is some neat print, generally lilac, for the morning, and grey or brown alpaca or mohair when the work is over. They clean the wards and lavatories, keep the beds and patients tidy, and they are often much beloved, being quite different characters from dram-drinking Mrs. Gamp.

* * *

The night Nurses are seldom seen by students, not unless they have to sit up with a bad case. They give the medicines ordered 'to be taken every four hours,' and are liable to be called to assist at operations or 'accident cases' brought in late. At one time they could scarcely be trusted, they were so apt to fall asleep, but a great improvement has been observed of late years."

* * *

THE Nurses in our large Hospitals are often brought into contact, both in the wards and in the out-patient department, with curious and sometimes interesting cases of malingering. A

woman has recently been in one of the wards of a large Training School, who was covered from head to foot with self-inflicted scars. This good woman has no fault to find with Hospital accommodation. She thoroughly appreciates the comforts of the beds afforded her. A steady diet with no anxieties as to where the next meal would come from, recommends itself to her consciousness—wherefore the scars. Whenever this original person felt the need of rest and regular hours, she inserted a needle deep down under her skin. This she left *in situ* to fester or gather. And when the wound was sufficiently advanced she hied her to a Hospital, to which she generally obtained admission for a few days.

* * *

IN France much ingenuity is displayed by beggars in shamming disease and suffering. One man, who was one of the best brass-workers in Paris, met with an accident, and was a patient in Hospital for six or seven weeks. He had injured his right arm, but had recovered sufficiently for this to be no hindrance to his work. But during his convalescence he had tasted the sweets of idleness, and, instead of returning to his trade, he posed about the streets as a hopeless case. He tightly strapped his right arm to his body, under his clothes, and the sleeve of his coat hung empty by his side, or, to speak more correctly, from the elbow downward; for he made himself a false stump of *papier-mache* and steel plates, which was absolutely a masterpiece of modelling, colouring, and mechanical skill. He made about as much daily as he would have done at his trade, but work would appear to most to be preferable to the discomfort of having one's arm pinned to one's side for half one's natural life.

* * *

But that suffering is as nothing to what is endured by the sham cripples who, for numbers of hours, stump away on one, and, sometimes, two wooden legs. In the majority of cases these "cripples" are women, for, of course, their petticoats, such as they are, hide their frauds more successfully, although the skirts are very short.

* * *

Shamming illness is old enough, when we recall the "professionals" of the art as far back as the Middle Ages, who had many devices. A favourite one was by stopping the circulation in the arteries of the arms by tight ligatures, with the result of inducing real fits and arousing the pity of passers-by.

* * *

A REQUISITION signed by fifty Nurses was read before the Wandsworth Board of Guardians, asking the sanction of the Board to their having

DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS
 DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS
*You can tell them by their Delicious Aroma,
 Dainty Fragrance, Softness on the Palate,
 Refreshing Effect, and Supreme Delicacy.*
 Of Grocers Everywhere, 1/6 to 4/- per lb.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)