

It appears from what took place at the last meeting of the Islington Board of Guardians, that the Nurses are not all satisfied with the conditions prevailing there, and five more have just sent in their resignations. One of the Guardians thought it was frivolous and vexatious for Nurses to complain because they were not allowed to sit down during the day, or because they had only half an hour's time for dinner. Another Guardian thought that the Nurses wanted places where the work was put out, though he did not say on what grounds he founded that opinion. Miss Varley thought, if what the assistant Nurses had reported was true, they had good ground for complaint; and, if she refers to the allegation that the Nurses are not *allowed* to sit down during the day, we certainly agree with her.

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In the best-managed Hospitals it is not often practicable to give Nurses a longer time than half-an-hour for the mid-day meal, and on many occasions in the stress of work it may happen that the Nurses are not able to sit down during the day, but we can hardly believe that any Infirmary would make a regulation forbidding the Nurses to sit down when they have leisure to do so. We should like to have the statement denied, or corroborated, if it be true.

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PERENNIALY the newspapers blossom forth with little snobbish paragraphs about "Aristocracy in Hospitals," "Blue-blooded ministering angels," &c. Here is another specimen from a "daily." Says a surgeon of a big London Hospital, "Lady Airlie's daughter has been added to the ranks as a Probationer, and only lately I have received quite thirty applications from all kinds of ladies, some very highly connected. Few applicants, however, realise what a wearing life it is. One at this Hospital now is a born Nurse; she is the niece of a peer, and has practically given up a life of luxury for one of alleviating pain. Her patients are kept well supplied with flowers and fruit from her father's hot-houses, and whenever she has time the carriage comes for her, and off she goes shopping, and buys little luxuries for them."

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THE County Council entrusted with the technical education of the district of Tottenham would be doing their duty if they were to institute courses of lectures to working women on Nursing or Hygiene, so as to include teaching on the "Care and Feeding of Babies." It ought to be an exploded notion that such knowledge comes with the advent of the baby. Nothing of the sort ever happens, and so genera-

tions of infants are imperfectly fed. A case came last week before the Coroner at Tottenham, respecting the death of a child of three months of age. The medical man gave evidence that death was due to asphyxia, brought on by improper feeding. Here a juror interrupted him by remarking that "Numbers of babies are fed on 'tops and bottoms,' and they don't die," to which Dr. Fox retorted that "Some men can take drink that would kill others and yet live. You might as well feed a man on tin-tacks as a baby on 'tops and bottoms;' they would do him just as much good. No baby can digest starchy food; it lays like lead in the stomach. I know many mothers give their babies all kinds of food under a mistaken notion that it fattens them, but it does nothing of the kind; it brings them much nearer to the grave." The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence, but it would be an interesting point to ascertain how many of them went home and altered their babies' dietary.

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IN a well-managed Hospital Ward, we recently saw a method of saving soap, which, although we had known of its use in households, we had not seen adopted in Hospital. A small flannel bag is always kept in readiness, and the bits and ends of soap are placed in this bag as they accumulate. When half full, the bag is stitched up and serves admirably in bathing patients, and in various ways where soap is necessary. By this system pieces of soap, otherwise quite valueless, are turned to account.

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ROYALTY was to visit a certain Hospital. The small boy of the Hospital Chairman was to present the bouquet. When asked how he should deport himself on this important occasion he said: "I shall bow, of course, and *if I have time* I shall smile." It never occurred to him that a bow and a smile might be simultaneous.

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THE *Lancet* is responsible for the following, and also vouches for its absolute truth:—

A medical man was examining a rash upon a patient's back.

M.D.: "Is this rash growing?"

Patient: "Yes, of course it's growing."

M.D.: "Why do you say 'of course'?"

Patient: "'Cos it's a plant."

M.D.: "Yes, it is a plant; but how did you know that?"

Patient: "Why, they told me at the 'orspital it was a 'sycamore.'"

M.D.: "A sycamore!"

Patient: "Yes, they said as 'ow it was a 'variety of sycamore.'"

The rash was that of pityriasis versicolor.

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