

That it is advisable that the Matron of the Hospital should include a visit to the Mortuary at least occasionally in her daily rounds. As an illustration of the necessity for this may be mentioned that the Matron of one of our London Hospitals who was in the habit of visiting the Mortuary from time to time, went down early one morning to find that there had been a *post-mortem* examination late at night on the body of a child whose friends were expected to come to see it that morning. The body was then on the *post-mortem* table, the night porter having refused to attend to the case. The House Surgeon held that his work was finished when the examination had been made, and that it was the duty of the porter to put in the necessary stitches; the porter held that his work began after this had been done, and therefore declined to do anything. The matter was rectified and the child in the Mortuary before the friends came, but had the Matron not visited the Mortuary that morning they would in all probability have arrived to find the child in the condition described on the *post-mortem* table.

The day perhaps may come when our mortuaries, instead of having closed doors and being universally shunned, are places to which we are glad to take relatives of departed patients, hoping that they may glean some comfort from their visit. There is no need for them to be repulsive, on the contrary they should be, and they well may be, solemn and peaceful. It is not to be supposed that the Hospitals can spend large sums of money in beautifying their mortuaries out of their ordinary income, but special funds might well be opened for this purpose, and would probably meet with a ready response. Many people in the country would readily send up flowers for this special purpose, and there are few things that relations value more than the kindness which places these upon their dead.

Lastly, though until by the bounty of special donors it may not be possible for our mortuaries to be as beautiful as we could wish they might be, it is quite easy, and it is surely fitting, that the cross, the emblem of our salvation, flowers typifying the resurrection, and candles speaking of our belief in the immortality of the soul, should find their place in them all.

M. B.

The Nurses' Co-operation.

A VERY pleasant reception was held by the Committee of the Nurses' Co-operation, at Queen's Hall, Langham Place, on Friday, July 3rd, from 3 to 6.

Throughout the afternoon the rooms were crowded with friends, physicians, and Nurses, the latter showing an artistic and bewildering variety of uniforms. It is the rule of the Co-operation to allow the staff to wear the uniforms of their own Training School, and with a staff of 333 Nurses there must necessarily be a wide scope in colour, shape, and fashion. In a gathering such as this the diversity certainly looks more picturesque, if it be not quite so professional as uniformity. There were grey cashmeres, cornflower blues, pink striped gingham, and two Nurses in hedge-sparrow green, who strenuously denied the imputation that "the colour wouldn't wash." "Liberty guarantees it," they said in reply.

One lady said she thought "pretty uniforms did not look business-like"; to which a woman well known in the Nursing world replied; "that to look business-like was the last ideal at which a Nurse should aim. Let a Nurse," she said, "be thoroughly practical and sensible; but an atmosphere of 'business' would be most unpleasant in the sick-room."

Miss Hicks received the guests most hospitably, and the Committee, Miss Gethen, the Secretary, and the Nurses did all in their power to make the occasion a pleasant one. "This is our first party," said one of the Committee, "and we are decidedly pleased with it."

The Meister orchestra was ranged on a platform decorated with pink hydrangeas and pelargoniums. The heat of the afternoon caused a great demand for ices and lemonade, and the tea-rooms were well frequented all the time. Among those present were the Countess of Strafford, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Dunn, Miss Paget, Miss Wade, Miss Butler, Miss Ridley, Miss Elma Smith, and many well-known medical men and Nurses.

The annual report of 1895 shows the satisfactory fact that during the year a sum of £24,228 7s. 10d. has been paid over to the Nurses. Owing to the desire of the Nurses themselves, a Nurses' Home is to be established in connection with the Co-operation, and close to the office, the larger proportion of the staff being anxious to secure the comfort and companionship afforded by a residential Home. Each month "At Home's" are held at 8, New Cavendish Street, where the Nurses meet and spend a few pleasant hours together "over the teacups."



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