

THERE can be no question that Nurses are very prone to talk "shop." The accusation brought against them that they do, in season and out of season, plentifully sprinkle their conversation with "cases," has certainly a very fair foundation. Travelling in railway carriages and omnibuses, the writer is naturally keenly interested in the study of her professional Sisters, with the result that she must confess that medical and surgical details do crop up far too much in Nurses' small talk. One day last week in an omnibus going "West" were two district Nurses, earnest and enthusiastic to a degree. But why did they so publicly discuss the drainage tube details of an "interesting case" and enter into controversial argument on typhoid temperatures, etc. The chief offender was just the type of Nurse one would like to nurse one. Kind and pleasant to a degree. Her well-stocked basket contained a dainty little dish for a convalescing typhoid; she had a bundle of illustrated papers under her arm for distribution among her sick, and she was calling on her way at a philanthropic Institution to try and find employment for the recovering mother of a large family, who must needs set to work to feed her hungry flock. The occupants of the 'bus were prepared to feel the utmost sympathy with her good and charitable works; but it was easy to see how their sympathy changed to some measure of disgust as detail after detail of the sick-room was ostentatiously paraded before their open ears. It was such a pity, and the more so because the Nurses were excellent and earnest women.

TORQUAY as a town is laggard in its subscriptions to the District Nurse Fund. But it has no objection to the amusement of a bicycle gymkhana. This the Dowager Lady Haldon organised, with a resulting sum of £120 to hand to the Nurses' Institution.

IN the house-to-house collection in aid of the Ipswich Hospital the largest amount collected in one district was that of Mrs. Francis, the Matron of the Hospital and her Nursing Assistants, being close on £61.

THE keen competition of our overstocked profession is surely beginning to make itself felt amongst private Nurses, not only in London, where numbers of private Nurses have been out of work for weeks past, but also in our provincial towns.

IN Manchester, up till ten years ago, much of the nursing in private houses was done by Nurses trained at, and attached to the Royal Infirmary. But of late years numbers of Nurses have taken the law, and also the fees (and small blame to them), into their own hands,

and are working on their own account in Manchester. These Nurses usually charge one guinea a week—a very moderate fee—and one out of which only a moderate sum can be saved for the future, when they will be past work.

THE Royal Infirmary charges thirty shillings a week for thoroughly-qualified and three years' trained Nurses (and we are of opinion that the wealthy Manchester citizens could and ought to pay the usual fee of £2 2s.), and finds that the competition of the independent Nurse, who may or may not be fully trained, is resulting in a decrease in the applications for the Infirmary staff.

RUMOUR whispers—and we hope very sincerely without truth—that the fee to be charged in the future for the Infirmary Nurses is to be reduced to one guinea—a step which would inevitably have the following deplorable results: It would lower still further the standard wage of all qualified Nurses in the district, and compel the independent Nurses in competition to still further reduce their fees, so that it would become impossible for them, even with thrift, to provide for their old age. This seems to us such an important matter that we would venture to suggest that when the Board of the Royal Infirmary considers the question, they should decide if the time has not come when it would be more dignified, as well as more just, for them to cease to make profit out of the work of their Nurses. The system is indefensible, and one with which hard-working business men can have no sympathy.

THERE is an excellent alternative plan for providing the sick in private houses with really efficient Nurses. We hear of four ladies at least in Manchester, who, now married, have in the past held responsible posts in the Nursing world. Could not they form themselves into a Committee and organise a Co-operative Nursing Society, somewhat on the lines of our Registered Nurses' Society (we shall be pleased to forward regulations) of which thoroughly trained Nurses can become members—taking their own fees and paying a small percentage for office and secretarial expenses. We feel sure such a scheme could be carried out in Manchester, and would be immensely beneficial both to the certificated Nurses and the public, and no doubt one of the ladies would volunteer to act as Hon. Superintendent, as it is quite essential that such a scheme should have active professional supervision.

EVERYONE must feel the utmost sympathy with Miss Brewster, who had been for some time engaged as a Hospital Nurse in the United

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