

regulations drawn up by the Local Government Board, also bring in its train some misery and suffering—at any rate, until people have become accustomed to them. As, however, women who are proud of the privilege of belonging to a profession the objects and aims of whose existence is the relief of the suffering, we must needs always regard the world as our great workroom, and be prepared to do our duty whenever and wherever called upon.

Whether or no this remarkable invention prove of utility to us, time alone will show, and we can only watch and wait. We can find, while doing so, some consolation in the words.

“How many things by season seasoned are to their right praise and true perfection.”

H. A.

Mortuary Mismanagement.

WE drew attention some time since to the want of care and consideration expended on Hospital Mortuaries as a whole. There are, of course, many notable exceptions where the Mortuaries are conducted reverently and hygienically. But the very weak spot in the system is that the Mortuary is rarely, or never, under the authority and keeping of one person, who is directly responsible. Until this be done such Mortuary scandals as the recent one occurring at the Birmingham Queen's Hospital must repeat themselves.

The explanation of the authorities of how it came about that one body was taken from the Mortuary in mistake for another, and buried under a wrong name in the wrong churchyard, is to the effect that when the undertaker called for the body, the Mortuary porter, being engaged at the moment, desired him to go down to the Mortuary and wait for him there. The undertaker, it is stated, went down to the Mortuary, but instead of waiting there for the porter he proceeded to remove a body which he saw lying in the outer chamber, in ignorance of the fact that the one prepared for burial lay in the inner chamber. He obtained access to the Mortuary, we are told, through the accident of the porter having inadvertently left the key in the lock.

It is utterly wrong to leave the entire care of the dead in the hands of a Hospital porter. And we would plead that our Hospital Mortuaries, made beautiful, should be in the reverent charge of Matron or Sister, the porters performing routine duties subject to their supervision.

Nursing Echoes.

* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



WE venture to draw the attention of our readers to the letters which from time to time we are printing from our Special American Correspondent, because they foreshadow with remarkable originality and foresight the evolution of Nursing Organization, and should be carefully considered by thoughtful Nurses. The letters from an Englishwoman's Diary contributed from Italy are also of unusual interest with regard to the future development of lay Nursing in that country, and we feel sure our readers will watch with keen and sympathetic interest the work of this pioneer in Nursing reform, and become inspired as she is with the enthusiasm of the true Nursing spirit, and so wise and modest in the methods of attaining an almost impossible ideal. We are watching her great work with warm interest.

* * * SISTER MEHEUX, of the Station Military Hospital at Gibraltar, met her death, like a soldier, on duty, and she was rightly accorded full military honours at the funeral. The late Sister was immensely popular among all ranks of her soldier patients. She was struck down with pneumonia while nursing a private who died from the same disease. She had been untiring in her efforts to save the lad, and had attended him perhaps too closely. Two days after his death Sister Meheux was taken ill with pneumonia, and died shortly after. The funeral cortège included a firing party of fifty soldiers of the 1st South Wales Borderers, all the regimental bands in garrison, as also detachments from all the corps. The coffin, covered with the Union Jack, on a gun carriage, was drawn by four mules, whilst several military doctors acted as pall-bearers. Officers of all departments were present. Floral tributes of affection and esteem covered the coffin, and filled two coaches in the procession. All the shops were closed. Father Collins, Roman Catholic Chaplain to the forces, performed the funeral rites, which concluded with three volleys fired over the grave.

* * * THE *Globe*, commenting on the facts we have recently published with regard to the ever-in-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)