

staff, and are bound to no particular time, being allowed to 'better' themselves whenever they see a chance of doing so, and are always assisted to this by our Lady Superintendent, who has been most successful in obtaining good positions for her Nurses in London and various parts of the United Kingdom. Those who remain, in addition to fixed salaries, get half a guinea a week extra on mental, fever, and midwifery cases, have a refined and comfortable home when not on duty, with full opportunity of keeping up with the times, being allowed to attend operations, &c., while in Hospital. Kind care if sick, and a real interest in our well-being at all times. We cannot help feeling sorry for a "Hungry Nurse" who writes in the same number of the RECORD. Surely she would be better off if connected with one of these despised charitable Institutions. The constant anxiety about ways and means, and fear of starvation, must indeed be trying."

WE are always delighted to get communications from Nurses written in a bright and happy tone. People are too apt to make only their dissatisfied views public. Moreover, we are prepared to agree with these ladies that in cases where Nurses are unable to obtain the recognised fees of two or three guineas a week, it is wise and prudent for them to attach themselves to a Central Home, and to uncomplainingly conform to its rules. At the same time we must maintain that the practice of a charitable Institution, such as a Hospital, making any part of its income out of the earnings of the Nurses belonging to it, is entirely wrong, and based on false economic principles.

Our old friend "Leo" from the same Cork Hospital greets us "Bow wow wow! I read with considerable amusement your note about the 'automatic doctor.' I am always interested in novelties, and to me the automatic doctor seems a decided novelty. Could you give me his address, so that I might put myself into correspondence with his owner, and find out if he could be made a source of revenue to my barrel. If he could, I would consult with our doctors (who would do almost anything for me!) and see if we could get him on the staff here. If he could not be got for a permanency we might get him as a *locum tenens* during the summer months. Thanks for your kind words about me. I am not vain, but, dog-like, I do love to be noticed."

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We will endeavour to find out the particulars that "Leo" requires, but the "automatic doctor" hails from across the Atlantic, where his ministrations are at present confined; but no doubt we shall, before long, have his services at our railway stations. People who support to such an incredible extent patent medicines as do the English and Scotch, would hardly hesitate to place their faith in the prescription of the "automatic doctor," and after putting a penny-in-the-slot and getting a strong and nauseous drug, the patient could then put another penny in a neighbouring slot and get a sweetmeat "to take away the taste."

BIRMINGHAM has a reputation for kindly treatment of its sick poor, and the Board of Guardians have done another good deed in adopting a measure to improve the condition of the epileptic inmates of the Infirmary. There are at present 140 of these sufferers under their charge; and the tendency of these patients has been to go from bad to worse until they were compelled to be removed to the Lunatic Asylum. It was urged by the Infirmary Committee that the lack of systematic occupation encouraged them to brood over their afflictions and to aggravate their condition, and the proposal, which the Board has sanctioned, is to expend about a thousand pounds for alterations in the buildings set apart for these patients, that will provide workshops for industrial training in such handiwork as tailoring, shoemaking, basket-making, and such-like work, with regular hours, for those amongst them who are well enough to be so trained and occupied.

Anyone who has nursed or cared for persons suffering from epilepsy will have recognised that depression of spirits, amounting at times to gloom, is a marked feature of sufferers from even a mild form of this dread disease, so that any occupation for them, of a cheerful, social kind, is to be warmly approved of. No doubt it is with the intention of sparing the rates that such necessary work as shoemaking and tailoring is suggested at Birmingham, and it is difficult to arrange otherwise for these poor patients; but less sedentary work is what one would like to see possible for them.

THE *Nursing World* speaking of the foolish advice often given to Nurses and others in text-books, quotes a few examples:

"Don't wake a patient out of a sound sleep to give him a dose of sleeping medicine."

"Never use your finger as a gag to prevent a patient with convulsions from biting the tongue!"

We fervently hope that Nurses never will!

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