

Annotations.

QUALIFIED IN FIVE HOURS!

A NOTICE appears in a contemporary, pointing out the importance to sailors of being able to render first aid to the injured, with which we entirely agree. The article in question, however, goes on to say: "Now that facilities for acquiring the necessary knowledge are within the reach of all, it needs but *five lessons, of an hour's duration each, for an ordinary intelligent man to acquire the certificate.*" Owners, especially of passenger ships, should certainly, other conditions being equal, give the preference to any applicant for a post who can produce, among his other credentials, the Ambulance Association's certificate." We live in an age of examinations and certificates, but this is the first time we have ever heard of a certificate being given for five hours' work. We must leave the public to judge of the amount of information which would be acquired by an ordinary sailor in that period of time, and of the consequent value of the certificate.

THE LAW OF ELEVENPENCE HALFPENNY.

IT is satisfactory to learn that an amendment to the Act recently passed under the title of "The Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act," has received the Royal Assent, and that nurses working under the Poor Law will no longer be forced to contribute towards pensions which they have no intention of ever qualifying to receive. But, it is less satisfactory to know, that the laundry hands and scrubbers are not included in the provisions of the Amendment Act. It is difficult, indeed, to see upon what possible ground deductions should have been originally made from the hard-earned wages of these working women, towards a fund founded for the benefit of permanent officials, and from which the likelihood of their receiving any share is infinitesimal. We do not believe that medical superintendents, clerks to guardians, and other permanent officials, would wish that their pensions should be augmented by contributions from their subordinate working-class employes. But the fact remains that this is practically what takes place, and the inexorable "law of elevenpence halfpenny" demands that these poor women should submit to the injustice, or otherwise others

* The italics are ours.

will step in and take their work. Will not the matrons of the Poor Law Infirmaries who have taken united and successful action to maintain their own rights, and those of their nurses, plead the cause of their poorer and more defenceless subordinates? Their case, in our opinion, is even harder than that of the nurses, which has caused so much indignation—and they are voiceless.

THE LION AND THE LAMB.

Truth is a little obscured this week, and appears to have anticipated the millennium, when the lion and the lamb will lie down together, when it quotes the *Hospital Nursing Record*. We do not doubt that the lion would like to lie down with the lamb—the lamb being *inside*—but the time is not yet.

Our contemporary comments upon the demand of the "haughty medico" to be addressed as "Sir" by nurses, and considers that "the fuss these medical gentlemen are making over this matter is supremely ridiculous. Why (it asks) should a doctor object to be called a doctor, any more than a nurse to being called a nurse? We cannot adopt *Truth's* point of view on this matter. We have always held, and advocated, that, in their official relations with medical men, nurses cannot be too particular to emphasize those relations; and in our opinion, the most suitable, as well as the most professional, manner for a nurse to address her superior officer is by the use of the little word "Sir."

ICE ON BOARD MEN-OF-WAR.

THE use of ice in tropical countries contributes largely to maintaining the health of the people who are ill, is unquestionable. In the treatment of fever, when the temperature is tropical, to be deprived of ice is to be deprived of one of the most valuable means of soothing the distress of the patient. We are therefore glad that attention has again been called by the press to the fact that there is, as a rule, on board men-of-war in the tropics, no provision for supplying ice for the use of invalids. As the sick sailor is absolutely helpless in such a matter, we hope a sense of what is due to the men who risk their lives, by exposure to tropical diseases, for the defence of their country, will lead to their being provided with every available means of relieving the pain, and overcoming the risk to life, associated with attacks of severe fever.

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