

about which politicians wax so indignant when talking to the gallery. At this hospital there are fifty-five probationers and six sisters to look after two hundred and thirty-six beds. A first year nurse receives £16, for the second year £24, for the third year £32; ward nurses £40, charge nurses £44, sisters £50, with an advance to £60 at the end of six months.

The *Sydney Telegraph*, in thrashing out the question of an eight-hours day for nurses, finds that "the eight-hours business is looked upon with contempt—laughed to scorn, in fact. The

matron. But she gradually drops into the way of things—always assuming that her health holds out, and that she gets through the month's trial—and then she tackles night duty. At the end of her first year she is expected to pass an elementary examination. She must get at least fifty marks out of a hundred for practice, and the same for theory, but is expected to obtain eighty or ninety.

If she gets through the first examination satisfactorily she becomes an assistant nurse. Interpreted into plain, straightforward language, that means that she can be left in a ward with a probationer



ON DUTY. PRINCE ALFRED'S HOSPITAL, SYDNEY.

nurses want none of it. All they asked for is something like reasonable treatment—two days' leave a month, and a month's holiday in the year."

At the Sydney Hospital—presided over by Miss Gould—we learn how advanced and thorough has become the education of the pupil nurse. Her first year's work is of an elementary character. She helps to serve the meals, assists the nurse to whom she is allotted, attends lectures on bandaging by the sisters, on bed-making, and other matters by the matron, and on anatomy and physiology by the doctors. She gets no surgical work tending to try her nerves at first. This is a wise regulation of

only, but it must not be for more than three hours in any one day. This is only done when necessary, and it is not often necessary. Naturally she remains an assistant nurse until the end of the second year, and is then expected to pass a medical and surgical nursing examination. When she is through this she is practically a full-fledged nurse, and can take charge of a ward whilst the sister or head nurse happens to be off duty. Of course a failure to pass the examination at the end of any year does not mean that the nurse has to leave the institution. But she does not move upward when opportunity occurs unless she has passed the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)