

THE case of the Camberwell nurses has again brought the subject of nurses smoking prominently before the public; and, in giving our support to the nurses at Camberwell—because they were called upon to resign without a fair hearing—we have been accused of giving our approval to smoking for nurses; as a fact, we have a strong physical repulsion to tobacco smoke, and as other members of the community share this idiosyncrasy, we consider the habit of smoking is an objectionable one for trained nurses, who are primarily servants of the public, and the basis of whose professional efficiency depends upon the power of self-denial, which can only be maintained by well-disciplined self-control. The nurses at the Camberwell Infirmary explain that they smoked as a sanitary precaution, because they were compelled to sleep in a condemned building; and, under these circumstances, their conduct cannot be condemned, even by those who, like ourselves, object to the habit of smoking.

MISS CAREY, who was recently requested to resign the position of night-superintendent at the Camberwell Workhouse Infirmary, without being informed of the charges brought against her, was presented before leaving the Infirmary with a beautifully fitted Nurses' Bag, from the past and present medical and nursing staffs; the bag bore an inscription stating that it was a "mark of esteem." Miss Carey has, we are glad to state, obtained another appointment. In connection with the affairs of the Camberwell Infirmary, it is noteworthy that Nurse Page, the nurse who received the intimation that her resignation was required, and the details of the charges made against her, through the medium of the press, has not sent in her resignation, and that this is not now required by the Board. It is stated that at the time Nurse Page's resignation was asked for, she was a patient at St. Thomas's Hospital, suffering from ophthalmia contracted in the insanitary buildings at Camberwell, where the nurses are housed.

IN the case of Nurse Page, the benefit of publicity is abundantly proved, as there can be little doubt that, but for the comments of the local Press, as well as of the NURSING RECORD, upon the unjustifiable action of the Guardians, in demanding the resignation of nurses, for reasons of which they were not informed, and which they were denied an opportunity of refuting, Nurse Page would also have been added to the number of those who were so unjustly treated.

THE Nursing Staff at the London Hospital has of late years so considerably increased in numbers, that the Clinical Theatre, where the lectures to the nurses were formerly given, is no longer large enough for the purpose. We understand that the

Library of the Medical College has now been put at the disposal of the Nursing Staff on Wednesday evenings—a courtesy which is much appreciated. The Chairman of the London Hospital, Mr. Sydney Holland, created an admirable and progressive precedent in Hospital annals, by himself delivering to the Nursing Staff, two lectures upon various matters connected with their life and work in the hospital. Frequently, the Chairman is but a name, conveying no meaning to the Nursing Staffs of our various hospitals, but the Chairman of the London Hospital takes a keen personal interest in the nurses for whose welfare he is responsible, an interest which we do not doubt is well repaid by the loyalty and *esprit de corps* of the Nursing Staff.

DURING the eight months that Mr. Lloyd's home of Rest for Nurses has been open at Langleybury, nearly one hundred London Hospital Nurses have been hospitably entertained there.

IT is rumoured that the caps of the sisters at the London Hospital are to be shorn of the appendages which are suspended from the back. We can only say we hope the rumour is true, for anything more awkward, or uncomfortable than these streamers was never worn. In our opinion a dainty bow, tied under the chin, is the most suitable finish to a nurse's cap.

MISS CLARA H. BOURNE has resigned the position of Matron of the Royal Chest Hospital, City Road, which she has held for the last five years. We hope that Miss Bourne's successor will reap the benefit of the good work which she has accomplished during this time, and will maintain the high tone, which at present prevails, in the conduct of the nursing staff. Miss Agnes E. Bourne, sister of Miss Clara Bourne, has resigned the Matronship of Chalmer's Hospital, Edinburgh. It is rumoured that these ladies propose to start a Nursing Home for paying Patients, in London.

AMBITIOUS sisters and nurses have just now an opportunity for distinguishing themselves, as there is preferment for some half-dozen of their number. First, there is the matronship of the British Lying-In Hospital, Endell Street. Here is a golden opportunity for a reforming spirit! Then there is the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, the Royal Chest Hospital, City Road, Chalmer's Hospital, Edinburgh, the Liverpool Hospital for Children, and the Bridgewater Infirmary. Quite recently the matronships of the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, the Royal Hospital, Portsmouth, and the Durham County Hospital have been vacant also, so that a considerable number of promotions are in the air, though we fear that the highly-congested condition which prevails in nursing circles will scarcely be appreciably relieved thereby.

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