

would like to know if the Matrons of large Hospitals had the selection of Sisters. It was her opinion that a Sister should be chosen for her nice mind, and for her lady-like manner, not because she was a lady by birth and education, and had entered the Hospital as a paying Probationer, which she believed was why they were chosen in the large London Hospitals.

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MISS FOGGO-THOMSON said, on the subject of Private Nurses, that it was a shame that in an Institute a good Nurse had to be always working because she was a good Nurse, whereas those who were not so popular were never out at a case, and yet were just as well paid. She suggested that it would be much better if a small amount was given as bonus, so much per cent. on each Nurse's earnings. Miss Thomson said she knew that she was straying from the subject, but she had long wished to have an opportunity to say all this, and she had come all the way from Brighton that afternoon to get a word in edgeways if she could. (Laughter.) She knew it was not exactly what she was expected to say, but it had something to do with the Matron after all, and she had wanted to say all this at some meeting of the Association, and now she had said it. (Laughter.)

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MR. PICKERING PICK, in answer to a request from the chairman to speak, said that he could not think of expressing an opinion on the matter after Mrs. Fenwick. He had come to learn, and he had learned a great deal.

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MR. OWEN LANKESTER said that he would like to say that he had been brought up to look upon Mrs. Bedford Fenwick as the ideal Matron, and he could only state his belief that she had been all that the paper they had just heard, stated that a Matron should be. Mrs. Fenwick replied to each of the speakers.

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MR. PICKERING PICK proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was carried by acclamation, and Mr. Brudenell Carter acknowledged the compliment, and proposed a similar vote of thanks to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and the meeting then concluded.

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I HEAR that Miss Mewburn has been appointed Night Sister at the Glamorgan and Monmouthshire Infirmary at Cardiff. Miss Mewburn was trained at the General Infirmary at Leeds, and has since then held responsible appointments in the Guest Hospital at Dudley; the Cardiff Infirmary, and finally became Night Superintendent of the St. Marylebone Infirmary—a post she now

vacates for her new work. I am indebted to Miss Francis, the Matron of the Cardiff Hospital, also for the information that she has selected Miss M. E. Dixon, who has been for four years a Staff Nurse at Guy's Hospital, to fill the vacant post of Sister of the Men's Medical Ward in her Institution.

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OUR contemporary, *The Tablet*, still continues to discuss the dislike shown towards Catholic Nurses by the managers of various London Hospitals, and last week printed the following correspondence. The sooner such ridiculous intolerance is buried, the better. Nurses have to tend people of all creeds, or of no creed at all. Sickness levels every sect; and with all due deference, it seems to me that Christians disgrace their profession always by sectarian bitterness, and never more so than when they permit questions of sect to over-ride matters common to our humanity. To refuse to train Jewesses or Catholics in English Hospitals is simply to repeat the parable of the Good Samaritan. The reprobation which for eighteen centuries has been poured on the Levite and the Priest, who refused to succour the wounded man, is equally deserved by any Committee which prevents, vicariously, others from yielding that assistance to their day and generation. The letter to which I refer is as follows:—

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"SIR,—Having read a great deal about Hospital Nursing lately in the daily papers, I should like to add my testimony to a prejudice that still appears to exist in these so-called enlightened times. I enclose you a copy of a letter I received last week from the Matron of King's College Hospital in answer to my application to be trained for Nursing. You see the only reason given for refusing me as a 'Probationer' is my religion, 'Roman Catholic.' Does this not seem unjust when one remembers that we have taught the civilised world the art of Nursing? Roman Catholic ladies were the first to devote their lives to succouring the sick and poor, before Lady Superintendents, Probationers, and certificates were dreamt of. Do we not help to support the Hospitals by our collections? Have we then not equal right to profit by *all* the benefits derived from them? Should not Hospitals supported by voluntary contributions be open to Nurses and patients of every creed? How can Catholic ladies receive a thorough training if they are not admitted in the large London Hospitals? I know only of two where we would not be refused on religious grounds. Trusting soon to see just and tolerant ladies and gentlemen governing our hospitals, I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,  
"R. C. PROBATIONER.

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