

wish to make inquiries, and may find those hours more convenient.

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A KIND correspondent writes me: "On March 13, Mrs. Dyer, the much beloved and respected Matron of Darenth Asylum, was presented with a very convenient travelling trunk, and literary machine, by her Nurses, and a beautiful little work-basket by the patients. Mrs. Dyer has been an officer of the Asylums Board for thirteen years, and her retirement, owing to ill-health, is universally regretted." It is always a satisfaction to feel that one's work is appreciated. Only very strong-minded people really believe that "virtue is its own, and only, reward"; and I strongly suspect they would prefer that in their own individual case virtue might receive some additional recompense! Anyhow, it is pleasant to hear so frequently of the practical gratitude exhibited towards Nurses, and I sincerely congratulate Mrs. Dyer upon the keen sympathy and personal kindness now being exhibited upon her resignation of the post she has so long and so worthily occupied.

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I AM indebted to Dr. Thomas, the well-known Superintendent of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, for the following:—"Miss Elsie Thorn, the Night Superintendent of Medical Nurses in this Infirmary, has been appointed the Matron of the Ayr County Hospital, vice Miss McEwen, resigned. Miss Thorn was trained at the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, and has held her present appointment for twenty months. This is the third Matron of the Ayr Hospital who has been chosen from the Staff of this Institution." I sincerely congratulate Miss Thorn upon her rapid promotion, and wish her all happiness and success in her new post.

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MANCHESTER used to be rather a go-ahead city. In Nursing matters, however, from all accounts, it is woefully behind its day and generation, while Liverpool is as rapidly coming to the front, initiating a Pension Fund for its Nurses, and so on. Now, it seems that the Mancastrians do not approve of Lady Nurses, and will not admit gentlewomen as Probationers to their Royal Infirmary on any account. Considerable discussion seems to have been proceeding on the subject, but the only conclusion the Governors seem to have arrived at is, that they know that uneducated women can act as Nurses because they have always had such workers at the Infirmary.

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MISS EMILY FAITHFULL writes last week in the *Lady's Pictorial* on this subject as follows:—"A great many people have been somewhat

astonished at the recent discussion of the Board of Governors and the House Committee of the Manchester Infirmary about lady Nurses. At one meeting of the House Committee, on the 18th, a resolution was passed to the following effect:—"That the instructions given to the Lady Superintendent of Nurses, to decline all applications as Nurses from those who ought to be described as ladies, be withdrawn." At the next, Mr. A. Neild moved an amendment to the effect "That the Chairman, Secretary, and Lady Superintendent, be requested to report to the Committee whether there is in force any rule, expressed or implied, which fetters the discretion of the Lady Superintendent in engaging women of superior education as Nurses." Both amendment and motion were lost."

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"IN referring to these minutes, Mr. Simpson stated that in addition to the regulations under which the Lady Superintendent at present admitted Nurses, he understood that there had been an instruction given, which was not written, by which there was no option but to refuse the application of a person who would be described as a lady. He said that in excluding those to whom he had referred, they were depriving their patients of the services of a body of women specially qualified, and whose services would be specially acceptable to their patients. He believed the main, if not the sole, objection of the committee to the adoption of his resolution was with regard to the Matron's discipline in the Hospital, and that some difficulty might arise in sending out Nurses in private families. If other Hospitals larger than theirs, circumstanced precisely the same as regards their patients and their Private Nurses, found by practice that ladies when admitted were amenable to discipline as Nurses, and performed their work as other Nurses did, and those Hospitals benefited thereby, he asked why they should deprive their patients of similar advantages, merely on the ground of anticipating difficulties in the maintenance of discipline and the sending out of Private Nurses."

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"MR. ALFRED NEILD said he thought that to throw any obstruction in the way of lady Nurses was a very grave matter, and he was sorry that the resolution of the Committee had tended to do that. He could not believe that what was done in other Hospitals was impossible in the Manchester Infirmary. There was no doubt that women came as ladies who were utterly unsuitable, but such failures were not general. There was, however, much ambiguity about the term 'ladies.' If it meant simply ladies of good family who wished to go to the Infirmary to amuse themselves, he

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