

their daughters educated for a profession without contributing towards the cost of such education. If parents had to pay for their daughters being taught nursing—as they pay for them being taught other trades and professions by which they can earn a living—they would not encourage them to grumble quite so much. Fifty guineas premium for each Probationer who enters for training at the London Hospital would mean an annual income of more than £5000, and the chances are that the dull and ugly duckling of the family, now often considered “good enough for a nurse,” would not be the daughter selected for a training which cost money. No, *paterfamilias* would not throw away his golden guineas over the “She’ll do” of the family; he would select a more intelligent member—greatly to the advantage of all concerned.

WOMAN'S WORK.

THE question as to what may legitimately be considered woman's work recently came before the Halifax Board of Guardians. Mrs. G. H. Smith, with whose action we are entirely in sympathy, moved that “a male nurse be appointed forthwith to have charge of the insane and unpleasant male patients, and the bathing of the whole of the male patients.” Mr. D. Haigh said, in seconding the motion, that in passing it the guardians would be doing not only the proper, but the necessary thing.

In the discussion which followed the majority of the guardians preened themselves upon the excellence of the present arrangements, one gentleman going so far as to say that the “management of the institution could not be surpassed.” Another thought that “if there was one work which a woman had been designed by Providence to do, it was nursing.” No doubt, but there are, nevertheless, limitations to the nursing duties which it is suitable should be performed by women, and in our opinion the entire charge of insane male patients, and the bathing of all male patients, which is not done in bed, between blankets, come under this head. We notice a strong disposition on the part of the male sex to consider that woman has been “designed by Providence” to perform all duties which are especially repugnant and unpleasant to themselves, but this creed has, we believe, no warrant in Holy Writ. Mrs. Smith's resolution was lost, but there can be no doubt that she was in the right, and that, eventually, the course advocated by her must be adopted.

JUSTICE FOR THE ABORIGINES.

A BILL is about to be brought before the New Zealand House of Representatives, which, if passed, will require tuberculosis to be treated as an infectious disease. The Bill also directs that consumptive patients shall not be allowed to land in New Zealand. The Bill has the strong support of the Hon. W. P. Reeves, Agent-General for New Zealand, who holds, we think, with much reason, that there is no reason why New Zealand should be considered a “dumping ground” for moribund phthisical patients. Mr. Reeves states that it has been a practice—and, he holds, a shameful practice—to send hopeless cases of phthisis from England to New Zealand; he also asserts that patients destined for New Zealand have left London in so advanced a stage of the disease that they have been landed at Plymouth to die. We fully sympathize with Mr. Reeves in his view that it is unfair to treat New Zealand in this way, and we further think that it is cruel kindness to a patient in an advanced stage of consumption to expose him to all the discomforts which an invalid must experience on a sea voyage, and land him, a stranger in a strange country, to die. Further, the Bill is but justice to the Maoris, who are gradually becoming an extinct race, which is alleged to be due to the fact that they contract phthisis, which is not a disease of the country, but is imported from abroad.

A HOSPITAL TRAIN.

A LESSON in dealing with railway accidents might with advantage be taken by this country from Belgium, which possesses what is known as a “hospital train.” When an accident occurs, the train is run to the spot, the wounded conveyed to it, and removed to the nearest large city for treatment. The train can also be used for the transport of invalids, notably for those travelling from Belgium to Lourdes. The train is arranged with a main compartment, a corridor on one side, and two small rooms at the end. The large compartment forms the hospital, and contains twenty-four beds on steel tubes, hung from powerful springs. Each bed is provided with a little moveable table. The corridor outside this unique ward leads to the medical department, in which is a large cupboard for drugs and surgical instruments, and a folding bed. By an ingenious arrangement of trap doors in the floor, accommodation is provided for a provision cellar, and an ice chamber, etc.

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