

Mr. Holland does not believe in curing one set of beings at the expense of the health of another, and the ten hours' day is already in force. Nurses who, in the "good old days" of less than a decade ago, were accustomed to a working day, beginning at 7 a.m., and ending at 9.20 p.m., with half-an-hour off for dinner, and, *perhaps*, half-an-hour for tea *in the ward*, if the work was light, will think that the London nurses have fallen upon easy—not to say luxurious—times.

THE case of a lady who met with an accident, resulting in the fracture of a leg, as well as in the dislocation of an ankle, and who was admitted to the Royal Free Hospital, has caused considerable comment in the daily press. It is alleged that Miss Snowdon, the lady in question, was admitted to the accident room of the Hospital at 12.20, and apparently was seen ten minutes after admission, though it was not until another two-and-a-half hours had elapsed that she was told that her case was a serious one, which would necessitate the administration of an anæsthetic, and it would be necessary for her to become an in-patient. According to the *Daily Mail*, Miss Snowdon was then carried to the women's ward, and washed from head to foot. Of course she was! Isn't it a rule that all patients are washed on admission, and what do hospital nurses live for but the carrying out of rules! But, nevertheless, though rules are admirable, and soap and turpentine the best friends of nurses and patients alike, there are occasions upon which rules are better honoured in the breach than in the observance, and we are inclined to think that the present instance was one of them.

WE confess that if we had the misfortune to meet with an accident, and were carried to the nearest hospital, we should wish our injury treated, rather than our morning bath repeated, while we should think the occasion distinctly an infelicitous one to choose for washing our head. Nurses rigorously, and rightly carry out the routine treatment of incoming patients; still, routine may be overdone, and reference to the ward sister or matron in an exceptional case should, we think, meet the difficulty.

BUT at least we would, in all friendliness, recommend the member of the medical staff, who stated that the "Royal Free Hospital prides itself on cleansing its patients more thoroughly than any other hospital in London," to beware how he enters the precincts of other hospitals, for the nurses, to a woman, are ready to lynch him. If he had stopped at the end of the first half of the sentence all would have been well. But—"more thoroughly than any other hospital in London"! The imputation which is implied by this speech is, of course, that the patients in other hospitals are imperfectly cleansed, and hotly do the nurses resent

it. "I know several men I can set on to him," said one ward sister, in tones of deep satisfaction. "I'd have him to know that all *my* patients are clean." And the nursing staffs of every other hospital ring the changes on the same theme. Really, we do not think it will be safe for this young man to be let out after dark, alone!

A GOOD deal of feeling has been aroused amongst the volunteer and private nurses who worked at Maidstone during the epidemic of enteric fever, that their services have not been specially recognized by the gift of a medal, as were the services of those nurses working in the pay of the Corporation. It is a difficult question, because private nurses are required to attend cases of infectious diseases every day, and perform their duties as a matter of course, and would certainly not expect any personal decoration for performing their duty.

AT the same time, it is certainly a little disappointing to nurses who worked amongst the better classes—that they were not awarded the medal at Maidstone as well as those nurses who worked amongst the poor—because, in this instance, the latter nurses all received their full salary of £2 2s. a week from the public fund, and were also treated with every kindness and consideration.

THE volunteer nurses, we consider, have the greatest cause for complaint, as they neither received a monetary return for their labour, nor the honourable award of a medal.

"MATRON," writing to the *Kent Messenger*, says, "Many of those nurses who worked in private families, after the severe strain, have had to rest at their own cost." We much regret to hear this, as admission, free of cost, for six weeks at the Nurses' Home of Rest at Brighton, was offered by Mr. Charles Baily, of Brighton, to the authorities at Maidstone for nurses who were overtired in the discharge of their onerous duties, and this generous offer was not responded to. We shall be glad, therefore, to hear from any matron who knows of nurses whose health may have suffered from the strain of nursing enteric fever at Maidstone, to whom Mr. Baily's kind offer would be acceptable. A good blow by the sea is the very treatment for nurses thus overtired before they resume work.

MISS PURVIS, and the district nursing staff of the Middlesborough Nursing Home, gladdened the hearts of many of the young people of that town by the annual tea and entertainment which they recently organized for the children of the patients whom they had attended. Over five hundred children sat down to tea, after which the Marchioness of Zetland distributed the "fruit"

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