

THE Editor of the *St. George's Hospital Gazette* has evidently yet to learn that the Nursing Department has its relative value in the organization of a hospital for the care of the sick; and as the *public pays*, that relative value must be taken into consideration. Hospitals are not mere appendages to medical schools, as many young medicos appear to assume.

TOYNBEE HALL, always to the fore in all that concerns the social well-being of the masses, was the scene of an "Ambulance Sociable" last week, when Mrs. T. H. Nunn presented the successful students with medallions. The large number of 200 students joined the classes formed to give instruction to men and women in first aid to the injured, and of these about 80 per cent. presented themselves for examination by the St. John's Ambulance Association, and the large majority succeeded in satisfying the examiners. Some of the female members were formed into a Nursing Guild, and during the winter months received weekly instructions from doctors and nurses. They also undertook practical nursing amongst the sick poor under the supervision of a district nurse. We do not doubt that these pupils are able to perform many useful duties, but we hope that they will clearly recognise that they are qualified to render first aid only, and that they will not consider themselves as trained nurses, or as competent to perform the duties of fully qualified women.

WE are glad to learn from the Matron of the Swansea and South Wales Institute that Miss Edith Mary Howell, for whose clothing Messrs. Lewis and Lewis of Bath, as reported in our issue of the 23rd ult, sought to recover the sum of £95 3s. 1d. from the executors of Mr. Henry Watkin Lewis, is no longer a member of the Swansea Nursing Institute.

MR. CROWTHER DAVIES, the solicitor by whom Counsel for the defence in the Brandish case were instructed—has made the following statement concerning his client to a pressman:—

"For the present, he explained, Miss Brandish was in the house of the Warwick Prison chaplain, who immediately after the conclusion of the trial, offered her a temporary asylum. This offer was promptly and gratefully accepted, and it is probable that Miss Brandish will remain in her present retreat for a week or so. After that it was possible that she would go into a convalescent home for a short time, where she would have the rest and quiet necessary for the recovery of her health from the strain which had been put upon it by her long imprisonment and the two assize trials which she had gone through.

Asked what Miss Brandish would be likely to do when her health was thoroughly re-established, Mr. Crowther Davies said that her future would be cared for. Some kind of suitable employment would be found for her, and it was indeed possible that she would go back to her old employment of nursing."

WE hope that influence will be brought to bear upon this unhappy woman to awaken in her some sense of the grave injustice to professional nurses and the public if she should attempt to "go back to her old employment of nursing." We protest in the name of our honoured profession against such a course of action upon the part of Brandish or her friends, and in our protest we know we have the warm support of all self-respecting women.

WE much regret to learn that two nurses at the Richmond Asylum, Dublin, who last year suffered from beri-beri have had a return of the affection. We wonder when this infected institution will be razed to the ground.

RESIDENTS in Athens are most anxious for the aid of thoroughly trained nurses in that city. Typhoid is epidemic, and the wife of the American Minister has succumbed to the disease.

The Hospital Authorities in Vienna are, in certain institutions, replacing the nurses, who have had charge of the sick, by nuns, and the nurses have combined to make a protest. This looks as if the nursing under the late conditions has been unsatisfactory, and it would be interesting to know the cause. Has there been a female head of the nursing department in the hospitals, which are about to make the change, we wonder, possessing the necessary powers to enforce discipline? By far the most common cause of unsatisfactory nursing is, we believe, at the present time, the lack of the enforcement of discipline. Nuns have, at least, this in their favour, that they are taught habits of discipline and obedience, and that they acknowledge the authority of their Superior. At the same time, no nursing can be efficiently performed which is in untrained hands, and it is a matter of common knowledge that nursing by nuns often leaves very much to be desired. They are somewhat apt to suppose that the royal road to nursing is found when they don the religious habit, and that the training necessary to make an efficient nurse may, in their case, be dispensed with. A more fatal mistake could scarcely be made, and, we hope, that in the interests of the sick, and we may add in the interests of the religious communities which undertake the work, the authorities of the Vienna Hospitals will see to it that the nuns, to whose

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