

competent and trustworthy nurse, and an economical manager. I can cordially recommend her for the position of Matron of a Cottage Hospital, and feel sure she will discharge the duties to the satisfaction of the Committee." In other words this testimonial might run thus. "Miss H. is a well trained and efficient nurse, but her temper is so uncertain that she is utterly unsuited for the position of head of a ward, where she has the training of other nurses. There has been continual friction ever since she came here, but in a Cottage Hospital it would be quite different, she knows her work well, and there is no reason why she should not make a valuable Matron if she keeps her temper." This second testimonial is also true, but, as it would not be likely to gain the position vacant for the Sister, it is not given to her.

WE are inclined to think that testimonials are given somewhat too freely, and that it is better for candidates for appointments to provide their certificates, and to give references. It may be a little more trouble to write to, or interview, these references, than to read testimonials already printed, but the result would probably be more satisfactory, and therefore worth the additional trouble, to those desirous of finding a suitable candidate for a vacant appointment.

THE benefit which accrues to the sick from the presence of ladies upon Boards of Guardians has often been demonstrated. It is only natural that in the domestic management of Infirmaries the expert knowledge of ladies should be of the greatest value, and the attention which they pay to details causes them to notice matters which escape the attention of their male colleagues whose talents do not generally lie in this direction. Recently Mrs. Helsby, a member of the Lymington Board of Guardians, drew attention to the insufficient supply of crockery in the female sick ward. She remarked that she had been shocked to find that no plates were provided, and that the drinking mugs were without handles. The patients had to cut up their food upon bare tables, and this did not seem to be quite nice. The Master of the Workhouse stated, in reply to a question from the Chairman, that "naval crockery" was provided, but that plates were not included. It was decided that a dozen plates, cups and saucers should be provided for each of the two sick wards. It is satisfactory to know that Mrs. Helsby's action in bringing the matter before the Board was appreciated. One of the members remarked that he was "glad they had got lady guardians to look after these little matters."

THE County Council of Sutherland have resolved to employ nurses to attend cases in their own homes, in lieu of providing hospital accom-

modation. An agreement has been entered into with the Sutherland Benefit Nursing Association, whereby one trained nurse will be provided by the association for an annual grant from the County Council. This association owes its inception and existence to the energy of the Duchess of Sutherland.

At a recent meeting of the Coleraine Guardians the master reported that Jeanie Stewart, who had been appointed as an attendant in the infirmary at the previous meeting, had come to the workhouse, but went away, declining to take up the duties. A letter from Miss Stewart was read refusing to do so. The reason she gave being that she found no room was provided for her, but that she would have to occupy the ward with the lunatic patients. Nurses are sometimes accused of making unreasonable demands, but surely, that guardians should require a nurse to sleep in a ward of lunatic patients is more unreasonable than any demand ever made by a member of the nursing profession. One can hardly imagine oneself sleeping soundly under such conditions.

OUR opinion has been asked by a correspondent in Australia as to the propriety of nurses administering enemas to male patients. We think there can be but one opinion on the subject. Sex is a question which does not come into nursing. A patient is ill. The nurse is in attendance to do her part in bringing him back to health, and an order which is given with this end in view it is certainly her duty to carry out, so quietly and naturally, that the patient will take the necessary attention as a matter of course; and will, moreover, feel that it is performed with the refinement and delicacy with which the ideal woman—and more especially the ideal nurse—will always discharge her duties.

WE feel strongly that any office which tends to the comfort of the sick a nurse should, if necessity require, consider it her duty to perform; and the woman who brings self-consciousness and mock modesty into a sick ward is surely out of place there. We have ourselves never shrunk from performing any duty which the sick have required at our hands, and in our opinion the sick are the gainers, and nurses are certainly none the worse for discharging the duties their profession demands of them.

THERE are many cases which require delicate surgical attendance, which it is quite impossible that a busy surgeon should give, and which at the present time it is even more impossible should be given by male nurses, because there are no training schools for male nurses established in this country. It is, therefore, even required, not unfrequently, of private nurses, at present, that

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