

THE sheep-like docility of the majority of the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association in subscribing to the suggestions of the Thorne—Fardon policy, and thus depriving themselves of the management of their own professional affairs, is a sad proof of the crass ignorance of women in business matters, and how the most illegal and tricky conduct of business can be carried on by "sharp" men, without detection by their victims.

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It is not before time, therefore, that instruction in the management of business details is to be provided for the Nursing profession, and we hope they will avail themselves of the teaching. Miss Somerville, who fills the position of indexer at the Women's Institute, has consented to give a course of six lectures at the Trained Nurses' Club (the Midwives' Institute), 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, for three consecutive weeks in October.

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SOME excellent instruction was given two years ago to the members of the Matrons' Council, by Mrs. Eva McLaren, on Parliamentary Rule, and the conduct of business at meetings, which was immensely appreciated by those present; it is hoped that these classes will be repeated at an early date.

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IN "St. Botolph, Aldgate: The Story of a City Parish," by the Rev. A. G. B. Atkinson, we get some interesting glimpses of Old London. We all know how St. Bartholomew's came to be founded by Rahere the jester of Henry II, "on the marshy grounds of Smithfield," as a leper-house in connection with his Priory, and what glorious deeds of healing have been effected on its foundation for centuries of time.

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MR. ATKINSON, in his delightful work, tells us the history of the famous Priory of Holy Trinity, "the richest conventual house in England." It was founded by Maud, wife of Henry I, and was situated in the parish of St. Catherine Cree.

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THE inner life of this Priory, which was brought to a close by Henry VIII, was extremely interesting, and we learn that Queen Matilda assisted the sick, "not only comforting the lepers, but most humbly washing them."

"As she (the Queen) benignly washed the feet of lepers in a more private place than the Royal Chambers, David, her brother, suddenly entering without her knowledge, observed her, and being offended thereat, reproved her, saying, 'It becomes not your dignity to use such vile offices, and moreover, if the King should know it, he would not hereafter approach you;' to whom the Queen replied, 'Oh, my brother, come hither and learn, for it is He that hath made us, and

not we ourselves, who saith in the gospels, 'And I was sick and ye visited me,' that if thou wilt so comfort or visit the sick, know that thou shalt receive health for thy soul from the Lord.' Touched by these exhortations of the Queen, David went and kissed the lepers, giving them gifts."

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THE women of Old London also seem to have been instinct with life and spirit, and we read that:—

"An example of the lawlessness of the times is found in the story of the Widow of Aldgate, of which some particulars have been preserved. The account is given in his History of London, by Mr. Loftie, who assigns it to the time of Henry IV. The widow found a poor Breton, who had by some chance made his way to England, and out of compassion took him into her own house and treated him kindly. But the ungrateful ruffian murdered her, and plundered her goods. He was detected, and fled across the river to Southwark, and took sanctuary there. The Breton, Mr. Loftie says, was starved out, but in accordance with the ecclesiastical law was allowed to go, on condition of returning to his own country as soon as possible. 'Bareheaded, barefooted, ungirt, a white cross placed in his hand, he was sent forth on his painful pilgrimage.' But though he had escaped the law Nemesis awaited him. 'As he went his way it happened him to come by the same place where he had done that cursed deed, and women of the same parish came out with stones and dirt, and there made an end of him in the High Street, so that he went no further, notwithstanding the constables and other men also which had him under their governance to conduct him forward, for there was a great company of the women, and they had no mercy, no pity.'"

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WE are glad to observe that the daily nurse is making her way in provincial towns. We have now before us the Regulations for the daily nurses supplied by the Nightingale Home, Southport. The fees, as is to be expected, are somewhat lower than in London. The nurses may be engaged for daily visits, by the week, or single visit, for assistance at operations, and for performing the last offices. The Nightingale Home also loans Sick-room appliances at moderate terms. It will be interesting to hear later with what success these nurses have met.

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MEETINGS of Boards of Guardians are sometimes very funny. The Newton Abbot Board are at present providing excellent copy for the local press. At a recent meeting Mr. Knibbs moved the appointment of one additional nurse. The Visiting Committee felt a larger nursing staff necessary. Otherwise the General Board would have to take responsibility for any failure. Mr. Sharland seconded. Mr. Wheatley moved, as an amendment, that two extra nurses be engaged, one to be qualified as a maternity nurse. Mr. Heath thought the "two nurses had been knocked overboard." Mrs. Roylands Smith seconded the amendment, and read extracts from the Local

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