

Dr. Cant reports in September 1898: "We have a good many cases of ophthalmia from the town this season, chiefly Jews. The competition to get in has been in their favour and to the exclusion of the fellaheen, but to the result that our out-patients have become nocturnal visitors, and that our room is always full, and the door shut by four o'clock in the morning. We do not finish with them until 1 o'clock."

It seems certain that if the hospital were four or five times its present size, and with its staff correspondingly increased, it would, on account of the great amount of eye disease throughout the country, be more than fully supplied with patients.

The Committee receive excellent reports of the hospital from visitors, and testimony to the skill and attention of the resident surgeon, Dr. Cant, assisted by Mrs. Cant. It is proposed to renew his term of engagement for five years,

The subscriptions to the hospital, together with the small income of £50 from the fund raised to commemorate the services of the late Sir E. Lechmere, are quite inadequate to meet the expenses, and they have hitherto been supplemented from the funds of the Order.

If the claims of the hospital were better known, especially amongst the wealthy Jews of this country, who are ever attentive to the wants of their fellow countrymen, further accommodation could be provided, as there is ample land for the purpose.

I trust that this statement may also be the means of increasing the number of subscribers, and so providing more funds for the current wants of the hospital. The Hon. Secretary, R. Gofton-Salmond, Esq., will gladly receive and acknowledge any subscriptions and donations sent to him at 72, Cheapside, London, E.C.

I am,

Yours, faithfully,

EGERTON OF TATTON,

Chairman, British Ophthalmic Hospital Jerusalem.
7, St. James' Square, S.W.

THE AMENITIES OF LIFE.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Although not a nurse myself, I am a regular reader of the NURSING RECORD, and it is with pleasure that I have lately seen much wise and necessary advice given in its pages concerning the matter of dress in connection with the wearing of uniform; could you also spare space for a few words on the subject of manners? That a few hints in this direction would not be superfluous as far as regards a certain class of nurses, will, I think, be amply proved by the following incident: I had occasion one day recently to take an omnibus at Chancery Lane; on entering, a lady endeavoured to make room for me in the only vacant seat beside her, but her efforts only enabled her to provide me with a very limited space into which to squeeze myself, for another rather stout occupant of the omnibus had placed herself with her face to the front end window in a solid and immovable attitude, from which no requests that she would make proper room for her fellow-passengers could induce her to move an inch, and she continued to sit in this unjusti-

fiable position, occupying as much of the seat as would have accommodated two decently-behaved people, until I left the omnibus at Oxford Circus. I hoped to have seen the last of this unpleasant travelling acquaintance, but on entering the Nurses' club-room of the Royal British Nurses Association later on in the day, the first person I saw was the very same who had made herself so prominently disagreeable in the omnibus.

I have known many nurses of pleasant and courteous manners, and I did not therefore, on the spot, mentally condemn the whole nursing class as a set of unmannerly women, but we all know that there are a certain number of persons ready to cry down the trained nurse, and many householders who will not hear of employing one for their sick relations, and those who honour the Nursing Profession are filled with regret and shame at every fresh example that comes under their eyes of those nurses who, by their behaviour, either as regards manners or morals, have given rise to the things, so much to be deplored, which have, within recent times, been spoken and printed about the professional nurse.

Of the various thoughts suggested to me by my omnibus experience, the principal one was: Cannot something be done to prevent the Nursing Profession being so freely open to all comers, many of whom merely enter it because they have not the brains to do anything else, or because they think that it is a life which may bring them many social advantages which they would miss in the only positions which they would otherwise be able to occupy.

I have been told that it is desired by many who have the interest of the Nursing Profession at heart, to make it compulsory for probationers before starting on the more practical part of their nursing training, to undergo a period of technical instruction, and of examination in such subjects as would give them a scientific understanding of their future work and awaken in them an intelligent interest in the same. This seems to me an admirable idea in all ways, for it would effectually prevent wholly uncultivated women from wearing uniforms, and would help to raise the status of nurses generally; it would, in short, help to place nursing as it ought to be placed, in the rank of the educated professions. It would most assuredly prevent the ranks being filled by so many women, who, far from remembering that they are members of a professional body, the honour of which they have in charge, are entirely without *esprit de corps*.

Could not the good work of keeping the Nursing Profession up to the mark, be also greatly assisted by those who have the training of nurses, or the superintendence of any body of them, by the exercise of more discrimination! We take it for granted that those who are placed in power fulfil the ideal of the fully trained, perfectly courteous and self-controlled nurse, fit both to train and restrain the younger woman, and to be an example to her in the way of work, and in the way of life, and surely it is within their province of guidance and selection, to eliminate from their service those who fail, from the lack of the necessary personal qualities, to do credit to the Nursing profession, or to make themselves acceptable to the public, as inmates of their houses, and intimates of their families.

Yours faithfully,

AN ONLOOKER.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)