

door, and they owe it to their cloth to remove this reproach. It can only be done by individual effort, and the determination to refrain from back-biting, envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness.

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THE Lord Mayor of Birmingham (Alderman Beale) and the Lady Mayoress have arranged to entertain the members of the nursing profession of that city at a reception at the Council House, on Tuesday, April 25th. This is an official and public recognition of the value of their work which Birmingham nurses will, no doubt, greatly appreciate.

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In the Report of the Committee of the Royal West of England Sanatorium presented to the Annual General Meeting of Contributors, the Committee state that "they feel they cannot too strongly express their thanks to Miss Mawe, the Lady Superintendent, for the large share she has taken in helping to contribute to a very satisfactory year's record." There is no doubt that the popularity, or the reverse, of an institution, both with patients and subscribers depends very largely upon the personality of the Matron. For instance, visitors to an institution feel much more disposed towards generosity if they are received courteously, and made welcome, than if they are treated brusquely, or even rudely and contemptuously. It is a matter of some importance to a Committee, therefore, to get the right Matron, and if they have found her they do well to be appreciative.

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THE Lincolnshire Nursing Association, under the presidency of Edith Countess of Winchilsea, is now entering upon its fifth year, and has 27 nurses working in districts which comprise a total population of 71,000. The nursing candidates are drawn from the county, and the expenses of their education are defrayed mainly by the scholarships granted by the Lincolnshire County Councils, but these scholarships are granted, unfortunately, without a thorough training being required of those who hold them. We are glad to observe that, though in a few districts it has been thought advisable by the Local Committees for the nurse to live in the houses of her patients, the Central Committee "recommend the adoption of the system of District Nursing, as a far larger number of cases can be undertaken in that way at a less cost to the patients. On the other system, chronic cases are obliged to be neglected."

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WE regret that, in speaking of the two distinct grades of nurses who are employed, they are described as (1) "fully-trained nurses" whose

minimum training must be one year in a general hospital or infirmary, and six months in a district; and (2) Rural Maternity Nurses, these being certified midwives who have had six months midwifery and district training, and hold the L.O.S. certificate.

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It is not possible to accept the idea suggested that nurses with one year's hospital training are fully-trained nurses.

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THE Association has now its own itinerating Superintendent, the Q. V. J. Institute having found it impossible to continue this work any longer. Miss Glover has been appointed to this post.

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AT the Annual Meeting of the Subscribers to Cheltenham General Hospital, Colonel Law raised the question of the refusal to admit a young lady as a probationer, alleging that it was because she was a Roman Catholic. Mr. Leighton pointed out that a bye-law did not permit a resident of the town to become a probationer.

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THUS two points of interest to nurses were speedily disposed of. We are of opinion that all hospitals supported by public subscriptions should be strictly unsectarian, and we consider the bye-law disqualifying residents in the town from becoming probationers in the local hospital a very wise provision. Discipline is difficult enough to maintain, in these days in our nursing schools, without the constant unsettling of a probationer by her attempting to do routine work in her home circle. An undesirable amount of gossip also results, which is neither good for the nurse nor the institution.

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FROM the report of the Cheltenham Hospital we read: "The income from the private nursing department amounted to £1,288, or £192 over that of the previous year." We see no reference to the amount paid to the private nurses, but fear the old discredited system of "nurse sweating" still flourishes at Cheltenham, as we find in the Regulations for Training in connection with this school that after only two years' training, for which the nurses have to sign an agreement to serve on the private nursing staff for a further term of two years, that the salary guaranteed is only £20 the first year, and five per cent. of her earnings. In the second year, the salary given is £25, with a further annual increment of £1 until it reaches £30. The percentage commencing at £5 per cent, rises bi-annually till it reaches 20 per cent.

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