

matter under consideration, and that they had been so impressed with the want of proper accommodation for nurses and other officers at the infirmary that they had allowed several to live outside, paying them a weekly allowance in lieu of lodging.

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THE Charge Nurses at the West Ham Infirmary have asked the Guardians for leave of absence once a week from two till twelve at night. We are glad to see that the Women Guardians opposed this request, Miss Duncan wisely saying that the nurses could not do their duty in the morning if allowed to be out weekly so late at night, and Mrs. Stursberg said if more time off duty was necessary, it should be arranged in the day-time. Of course, some of the male Guardians thought the request very reasonable. The matter was ultimately referred to the Nursing Committee.

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Now, it is a well-known fact that one of the chief complaints made by a late Superintendent of Nurses at West Ham was that the Charge Nurses did not come on duty at their proper hour in the morning. We believe they preferred to arise leisurely after a matutinal cup of tea, and if they are not in bed till one o'clock in the morning, the Guardians will be to blame for any breach of the time-table in the future. An occasional late pass is permissible, but that this should be demanded as a weekly right is quite unreasonable. But we are surprised at nothing at West Ham.

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MISS HENRIETTA LAWRENCE, and Miss Edith Oxley, until recently the Matron and the Head Nurse of the Accident Hospital, Longton, Staffordshire, are leaving England for South Africa to take up private nursing in Cape Colony. They have wisely studied midwifery and obtained the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society before proceeding abroad. It will be remembered that they were of the number of those members of the Royal British Nurses' Association who stood firmly to the original principles of the Association, and showed their sense of their professional responsibility by coming up from Staffordshire at considerable inconvenience to take part in the meeting when the disastrous new Bye-Laws were passed. We wish Miss Lawrence and Miss Oxley all success in their new work. It is possible they may find themselves in stirring scenes on their arrival at the Cape.

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MR. F. J. GANT, F.R.C.S., Consulting Surgeon to the Royal Free Hospital, and Vice President of the Royal British Nurses' Association, seems to have been singularly unfortunatè in the nurses he has met in the course of his professional

experiences, and we scarcely think that the nurses of the Royal Free Hospital—or, for the matter of that, of the R.B.N.A.—will feel complimented by the articles appearing from his pen in the *Medical Press and Circular*. The first of the series, "Satan in Petticoats," we have already dealt with. The second one, "The Husband Huntress and Trapper Nurse," "morally very unfit for a heaven-born calling, and socially a very dangerous type of feminine nature, gaining admission into families—as a nurse, for the exercise of her art." The effect of such statements is, of course, to depreciate and injure the private nurse, to rouse suspicion and jealousy on the part of wives and daughters when she enters the house, and to instil into the public mind such distrust as will make it very difficult in the future for private nurses to do their duty, while parents will be apt to hesitate before consenting to their daughters taking up this branch of nursing.

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MR. GANT'S story of the trapper nurse is scarcely exciting, or even interesting, but it serves as a peg on which to hang the morals he desires to inculcate into the public mind. He tells us:—"In a villa on the wild and weird coast of Tenby, in North Wales (since when has Tenby been in North Wales, by the way?) a palsy-stricken lady rested during the last few years of her troubled way with nothing true about her but the first beams of heavenly light in her soul, and a daughter of comfort and consolation. Husband, not a deserter, but absent by private deed of separation, an only son, a drunken sot, etc., occasionally visited his invalid mother."

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WELL, we suppose Mr. Gant knows what he means by this. To the ordinary reader it is somewhat obscure. However, after this preamble, Nurse Lovibond appears on the scene, and "found time (in addition to her nursing duties) to extend her favours to the witless boy-stepson, who, despite his personal demerits, possessed an over-powering attraction to her—money."

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HER methods, we are told, were "refined and delicate." Not so his, apparently, for after the "fair Nurse Lovibond had hooked and landed Mr. Alfred," she discovered he was married to a barmaid. "He coolly admitted the impeachment, simply remarking, "Don't I look like a married man?" "So Nurse Lovibond resumed her attendance on the old invalid lady; then, when death removes her, she sees hope for the future in renting (but not paying for) her late patient's house from the widower, and opening it as a sanatorium; and now, a younger sister, a "certificated" nurse, comes on the scene. With

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