

In noticing the formation of the corps, the *Nursing World* congratulates the profession of nursing on receiving this most just, though somewhat tardy, recognition from Washington, and adds: "It should not be forgotten that this order comes not from any kind regard or sentimental esteem of the nursing profession, but solely because heroic, loyal, trained nurses have recently demonstrated in camp and army hospital, that women are the heaven-decreed guardians of the sick wherever sickness and suffering may be found." It is certainly a satisfactory outcome of the recent war that American nurses have proved indisputably that they are a necessity to the Army Medical Department.

A MAN'S POINT OF VIEW.

THE correspondent of a contemporary is indignant because he has been given to understand that in the town of Leek it is the custom at more than one mill to deduct a certain amount of the wages earned by the hands for the support of the Cottage Hospital, whether the men are willing or not. He is of opinion that "a man should be the best judge of how to spend his own wages," an opinion in which we heartily coincide. The point is of interest to trained nurses, because it is by no means yet unknown for hospitals, and district nursing associations, to be supported partially by the "profits of the private nursing institution" with which they are connected, and the consciences of committees, if public bodies have any consciences, are singularly obtuse on this matter. We have always protested against this practice as unjust to nurses. They, as well as any other body of workers, should certainly have the disposal of their own earnings. Whether they belong to a co-operation to which they pay a percentage and maintain themselves, when not at cases, or whether they prefer to belong to an institution at which they receive a fixed salary and maintenance, the principle still holds good that any profits which may remain after the expenses of the institution have been paid, should be used for the benefit of the nurses who have earned the money. If private nurses desire to give donations to hospitals, the gifts should be credited to them as to any other subscribers; but to compel them to contribute to the support of any object, however intrinsically laudable, is merely "robbing Peter to pay Paul." A man, where his own affairs are concerned, has no hesitation in condemning, and protesting against, such a system.

The Nursing of Heart Diseases.

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INTRODUCTORY.

THERE is much misconception, even at the present day, attached to the meaning of the term, Heart Disease. It is a curious fact that, until some seventy years ago, the precise diagnosis of such complaints was regarded as very difficult; and it is still more strange that it is only within the last thirty years or so that an accurate prognosis, or forecast of the progress of any particular case, has been possible. In the early years of this century, and especially when the stethoscope was first employed by medical men in this country, the sounds of the heart, when diseased, were very variously described. But, with the aid of this instrument, the first and second sounds were made clearly audible in health, and the blowing sounds, or "murmurs," as they are called, which replace the ordinary sounds when the valves are diseased, became fully described and understood. The first result of this increased knowledge, however, was not unnatural. When a patient was found to be suffering from incurable disease of one or more of the valves, it was considered that his chances of life were very limited; and very often such patients were told that their deaths were imminent. In time it was, of course, found that these gloomy predictions were rarely fulfilled; and, as a matter of fact, there is a hale and hearty gentleman living to-day who, fifty-nine years ago, on account of valvular disease then discovered, was advised to make his will, retire from business, and prepare to depart this life. He took this advice but, as he felt better instead of worse, at the end of six months, he started to travel round the world. At the end of three years, he returned home and went into business again.

As knowledge increased, it was found that the results to the patient varied according to the valves which were implicated, even if they were affected by the same kind of disease; that, roughly speaking, disease of the valves on the right side of the heart was comparatively rare and comparatively harmless; and that while disease of the mitral valves might be quickly compensated for, and might for months or years cause little practical inconvenience to the patient, disease of the aortic valves sooner

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)