

that during the last few years much has been done, in removing the disability for promotion from the staff nurses, and in raising the qualification of the private nurses to the accepted standard, there is still much for the new Matron to accomplish.

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FURTHER, in the appointment of a new Matron, we hope that she will have fuller control of the nursing department than is the case at present, when the management of the nursing is still vested in part in the Medical Superintendent. There is, surely, ample scope for work in his own department for this official, and the discipline and control of the nurses should be placed in the hands of the Superintendent of Nursing.

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WE do not imagine that the public takes its views of nursing matters from *Modern Society*, and an article in that journal, by "Sister Edith," will probably do little harm. But why should Sister Edith be so disloyal to her profession as to expose, and even exaggerate, in a lay journal, the weaknesses and foibles of her subordinates. Let her discuss professional affairs in a professional journal, if she will; but, in our view, it is most out of place for her to write to *Modern Society* suggesting that would-be probationers should be more deliberate in selecting nursing as a profession, and should pay less attention to "the Johnnies"—i.e., the medical students—with whom, at least in the wards for which Sister Edith is responsible, the nurses appear to carry on most unseemly flirtations.

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THE *British Medical Journal* states that sections of the men of the Royal Army Medical Corps are as carefully trained in kitchen as in ambulance and ward duties. This may well be, for their knowledge of ambulance duty is not great. We are aware that the army orderly in the course of his career acts as cook, gardener, window cleaner, and in many other capacities; but though he may be proficient in barrack-room cookery for troops in good health, preparation of dainty fare for the sick is not, we believe, included in the instruction given to him.

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As to the attainments of orderlies, and their capacity for their work, the following incidents, related in the *Cornhill Magazine*, are instructive. First comes the report of an orderly on night duty, with a serious case:—

"Patient were of no trubbel." (As an amendment to this report, "Nurse and patient slept well" was suggested.)

Another report on an unpopular sergeant was brief and clear:—"Jackson is a confounded new-sance." Here are more advanced specimens of

the military orderly turned penman:—

"Saunders 'ad 'is nurrishment reglar, he also 'ad bleeding from the nose."

"O'Flannagan were very restless and would not sleep without I sot beside 'im and took milk reg'lar."

A class of orderlies were being instructed by a medical officer on enteric fever, and, referring to a previous enlightenment, the question was asked, "What are germs?" No answer for a minute, and the doctor went on, "Come, now, what are germs?" Silence again, and then a voice shouted in triumph, "Them things wot you ketches wen you gits to bed at night." Then this is how an orderly, arrived for training, announced himself as a person of much experience:—

"Ah've seen a deal of sickness in my time. You see Ah nursed me father a matter o' seven years—'ee 'ad a ferocious liver." (?Cirrhosis of liver.)

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IN the course of an inquest held upon the body of a lady who died on Christmas day in a boarding house at 233, Vauxhall Bridge Road, some facts were elicited which did not redound to the credit of the landladies. The doctor, who was only called in when the patient was in a dying condition, proposed that a nurse should be sent for, but the landlady replied that "she would not allow a nurse to come into the house; they were rate-payers, and the deceased must be taken away." When the doctor said that if this were done it would be at the peril of the landladies, both were "very rude." When a friend of the deceased lady went to see her on Christmas day, one of the landladies stood outside the door of the room and demanded "every penny that was owing to her." A bill, subsequently presented, contained an item, "Nursing, three days, two guineas." The recognized fee for the services of a fully-qualified nurse is two guineas a week, so that these untrained women, who had no right to make any charge for nursing attendance, charged just double the fee asked by a certificated nurse. We are glad to see that the jury censured the landladies for their conduct to the deceased woman.

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At a meeting of the Rathbone Guardians recently held, it was stated that the Matron (a nun) declined to come to the Board Room to answer a question on her department, but said she would see any Guardian at the house and give him all information she could. One member of the Board thought that it was "downright cussedness" that they should insist upon such a thing, while another remarked that he had not the slightest intention of offering any disrespect to the lady, but he would just point out that if any other officer of the institution refused to come

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