

validity, as on Saturday last she presented herself for admission at another hospital, armed with a letter from Sir Richard Webster. She was refused admission, on account, so she alleges, of an entry in the minute book, to the effect that she was not to be admitted as a patient. She refused to leave the building, and a police constable was called in to remove her. As she persisted in her refusal, she was taken into custody and eventually bound over to be of good behaviour for six months. Later in the day, Miss Beatty attended a meeting of the Metropolitan Radical Federation, and detailed what had happened, saying that she intended appealing to the British public for justice. Some of the delegates expressed indignation at the treatment Miss Beatty had received, and a resolution was passed, "that the facts of the case be gathered and be sent on to the Home Secretary." It was also decided to request Mr. Pickersgill, M.P., to ask a question on the subject in the House of Commons.

* * *

WE think there can be no question that hospitals put themselves in a wrong position when they pass resolutions excluding individuals from participation in their benefits, irrespective of consideration of the condition of the applicant. Illness and injury are the passports for admission to a hospital, qualifications which are held to be all-sufficient even in the case of the degraded. If an impalpable test of desirability, from a personal point of view, in the eyes of Committees and the medical staff, is to be imposed, admission to hospitals will become a complicated business. Applicants may in time be required to have their *bona-fides* endorsed by the Charity Organization Society before their applications are considered. Who knows?

* * *

MORE "mock nurses of the latest fashion!" and, indeed, there are fashions in fraud, says the *Daily Mail*, as in other things.

To trade upon public interest in the Army seems just now a tolerably easy device for impostors, judging by the success with which a woman of about forty, dressed as a nurse—a "nurse just from the front," and "a sister of General Hector MacDonald"—no less!—has deceived persons at Doncaster and Thorne.

At the former town she pretended to much importance. She spoke of all the generals at the front as though they were her personal friends, with the exception of "Stingy Kit," as she called Lord Kitchener. She also mentioned confidentially that she had been engaged to Mr. Winston Churchill, the war correspondent, during the last four months, and had letters from him.

Her name was given as "Sister Maggie," and she boasted the possession of a Distinguished Service Order, and said she had been presented to the Queen at Netley.

She took expensive apartments, and, when at length suspicions arose, got away without paying her bill. Later on she repeated the fraud with a somewhat similar audacity at Thorne. The police are now trying to find her.

* * *

MISS MARIE THOMPSON, described as a nurse, of no fixed abode, was brought up on remand at Oxford, charged with obtaining 5s. under false pretences for those in distress in South Africa, and on other charges. She was committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions. This is the fifth thief posing as a nurse brought to justice during the past month. We do not wonder that the public become averse to admitting nurses into their homes, with these examples before them day by day. Surely these criminals should be very severely dealt with when caught. The disgrace they bring on trained nurses by assuming their uniform as a cloak for their crimes, is most cruel; and nurses, having no legal status, have no redress.

* * *

At a recent meeting of the Directors of the Dundee Royal Lunatic Asylum, attention was drawn to the scarcity of nurses at the Asylum. The Rev. D. B. Cameron said that the difficulty was one which they must face. If it was due to the conditions under which the work was carried on in the Asylum, he thought it might be removed. He had recently observed that there were 300 applications for posts as probationers at the Royal Infirmary, and he appealed to ladies to direct their thoughts to the Royal Asylum, where their services would be of so much use.

* * *

THE Medical Superintendent, Dr. Rorie, said that the difficulty with regard to nurses extended over the whole of the asylums of the kingdom, and appeared to be due to a feeling with regard to the risks encountered. The suggestion made by Mr. Cameron as to probationer nurses, was a valuable one, and had engaged the attention of the Medical Psychological Association. It would be of great advantage if they could secure nurses of higher social position than those at present obtainable.

* * *

THE Chairman said this point had also been considered by the Committee, who had decided to offer greater inducements to nurses to remain by increasing their remuneration and improving the dietary.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)