

to say he has to provide the contents of a loving cup for the entire table. Could not nurses who live a community life institute some penalty for the same offence?

There is no doubt, however, that the tone of an institution emanates largely from its head, and if the residents are encouraged to read the daily papers, and to discuss public affairs they will speedily do so. We have in our mind one Home where nurses congregate where the Matron does not permit any conversation at the table which would not be considered suitable by an ordinary house party. She herself acts as hostess, and leads the conversation, giving it its tone, and we have been repeatedly struck by the refinement shown by every nurse in the house. There is no constraint, no chafing at discipline, the Matron to whom we refer is most popular, and generally beloved, and is, moreover, respected for the line she assumes. Her undeniable charm of manner and conversational powers do not come naturally to all, but still, any Superintendent who is so minded can make it distinctly understood that to transgress the rule of silence with regard to the discussion of "shop" is considered a breach of good manners. Influence in this direction will always be appreciated and supported by the best class of nurses. Another difficulty which is met with in residential homes is the perhaps unavoidable professional jealousy which arises between the members of different co-operations. The inevitable intercourse in Homes is too often made the occasion for extolling the excellencies of the particular co-operations to which the nurses respectively belong, rather than an opportunity for the exchange of professional opinions. We can most of us learn something from our neighbours if we will take the trouble to do so. We may well leave our own virtues to take care of themselves.

We commend these remarks to the consideration of the proprietors of Residential Homes, for we know of at least two such homes to which the nurses of a certain co-operation refuse to go, because the atmosphere engendered by the conversation savours of the kitchen sphere of thought rather than of that congenial to, and usual amongst, gentlewomen.

A word to a few of the older members with regard to the undesirability of discussing professional affairs in public rooms is almost certain to be endorsed by them, and when their support is enlisted this objectionable practice will speedily be discontinued.

## Annotations.

### DISCIPLINE.

THE maintenance of discipline amongst nurses is becoming an increasingly difficult matter, and yet, if we are to progress, it is essential that discipline should not be relaxed, for without it the standard of nursing inevitably deteriorates. Too often the fulfilment of her duty in this connection involves a Matron in some unpleasantness, and quite recently Miss. M. D. Farquharson, the Matron of the Melbourne Hospital, whose excellent work is known not only in Victoria, but all over the world, has had some disagreeable experiences in this respect, and a special committee was appointed to investigate the cause of the friction stated to exist between Miss Farquharson and some of the members of the nursing staff. The result, as was to be expected, has been the complete triumph of Miss Farquharson, and when the report of the Sub-Committee was presented to the General Committee, the Chairman remarked that "although there had apparently been complaints of undue strictness, the inquiry had proved Miss Farquharson to be a most satisfactory Matron." Such a period of strain unavoidably leaves its mark, and we are not surprised that the complete vindication of her course of action being now an established fact—Miss Farquharson has sent in her resignation. She is to be congratulated on the work she has done for the Melbourne Hospital, and we hope that the Committee of the institution will realize the importance of discipline, and that her successor will be accorded the support due to her.

### A CHANGE FOR THE CHARITABLE.

IN an excellent article *Truth* calls attention to the fact that many permanent charities have been reduced to the verge of bankruptcy by the diversion of subscriptions and donations to the war funds, and instances the condition of the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, now threatened with a distraint by the overseers. Our contemporary thinks rightly that a good deal of guilt will be taken off this great outburst of khaki benevolence if it turns out that to a large extent it has been indulged in at the expense of ordinary charities. The donations to the various war funds, if they are to represent especial liberality, must be given in addition to, not in place of, those which form a large part of the assured income of our home charities.

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