

Matron of the Workhouse. Mrs. E. Fixen, the present nurse, was placed in charge of the Infirmary, the ward-maid was appointed nurse, and an able bodied woman in receipt of outdoor relief was appointed as paid scrubber. The latter appointments were made on the recommendation of the Infirmary Committee, who were thanked for their wise selection. We cannot consider it wise to promote a ward-maid to the position of nurse in the same institution, nor is it, in our opinion, advisable for a Master and Matron, who have authority over trained nurses to belong to the class from which porters as a rule are drawn.

Mme. Durrand, the capable editor of that excellent paper *La Fronde*, which is not only edited, but printed and published by women, is to be congratulated on having directed attention to the absolute unfitness of nuns for service in hospital wards on account of the unhygienic nature of their woollen clothing. The fact that it has been reserved for a woman, Mme. Théry, to deal with this question in a woman's paper, is the latest proof of the loss sustained by the community, so long as half the nation are debarred by reason of their sex from participating in the control of national affairs.

The unsuitability of any women clothed in stuff dresses as attendants on the sick is, after all, not primarily a woman's, but a medical and scientific question, but we have heard of no campaign in the French medical papers on the matter, though the subject was ventilated in medical reports at the recent Congress of Hygiene. Religious communities are proverbially conservative, but one of two things is certain, either the thick woollen habit, with its hanging sleeves, dear to the heart of Sisters, must be replaced by a hygienic garment, or religious Sisters must retire from the nursing ranks and make room for the modern nurse in her clean washing dress and snowy apron.

We are pleased to note that *Nosokomos*, the official organ of the Dutch Association for furthering the Interests of Male and Female Nurses, gives this month a couple of pages to the subject of the Nurses' Congress at Buffalo; it is to be hoped that the society intends to send a delegate. No amount of reading is as educative as personal intercourse and discussion where professional affairs are concerned, and Holland is ahead of every other Continental country in nursing education and organisation.

At the Trelleborg Hospital in Sweden telephones are erected in the separate sick-rooms at

a small charge to enable the patients to pass the tedious hours in calling up friends for a chat.

It is to be hoped that by some means that terrible telephone bell can be muffled when necessary, as it is one of the most excruciating "nerve tortures" we know, and a bell rung in the room of a convalescent could surely be heard by others near by who may be seriously ill. No, please, no telephone bells in our hospitals.

There are a large number of Hindis, chiefly traders and shopkeepers, resident in the island of Zanzibar, and the Dufferin Fund has done good service by sending a midwife to work amongst these Indian women. We are told that she gets plenty of work to do, and her services must be of great value to these women, who, as there is no lady doctor resident in the island are dependent in their confinements upon unskilled assistance, and there is a wide field of usefulness before this worker.

The life of this midwife must be one of much self-denial and fortitude. Nursing is trying work at all times in Zanzibar, even in a well appointed hospital, built with the object of obtaining all the fresh air possible. Only recently, Miss Brewerton, the Matron of the English Hospital, wrote: "The nights are very hot now, and it takes all one's time to pull oneself together for what must be done." When we consider the trying nature of midwifery work, even in a temperate climate, we can form some faint estimate of the difficulty of the work in a tropical climate, in dark, ill-ventilated houses, and with no conveniences of any kind. It is honourable to womankind that there are those of the sex who do not shrink from undertaking work of this description.

What constitutes an efficient nurse? When some general principle is laid down on this point the opinion of the person mostly concerned, namely the patient, will have to receive greater consideration than at present. A correspondent tells us that she recently expostulated with a medical man for filling in the papers sent with a nurse to a private case to the effect that she was an efficient nurse, and the answer he gave was that she knew her work, but did not suit the patient. As a matter of fact her presence was so prejudicial to the patient that, had her services been retained, the strong probability is that the patient would not have lived.

And yet this woman "knew her work," so that evidently something beyond mere technical skill is necessary to make a good nurse. When our

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