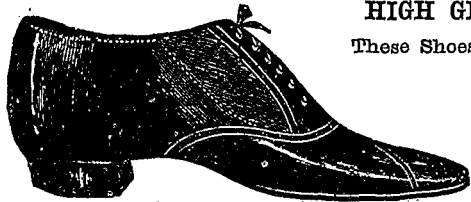


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### Editorial.

#### A BREACH OF PROFESSIONAL ETIQUETTE.

A TIME-HONOURED custom in the Gamp era of nursing was the extraction of doles from patients, a custom which, with the advent of refined and educated nurses, has been abolished in all well-ordered nurse training schools, though recent revelations have shown that it is still rampant amongst the male attendants in military hospitals. It was, therefore, with indignation, though not with surprise, that we learnt from the account given by a local Chelsea paper of the recent marriage of the late Matron of the Chelsea Workhouse Infirmary, that she not only received gifts from the nursing staff, but all classes of workers in the infirmary, down to the scrubbers, were canvassed for contributions, and that even the patients, who would not be in the institution at all if they were not destitute of this world's goods, were not exempted from this toll. We are sure we shall have the whole nursing profession with us in our protest against hospital nurses taking gifts from pauper patients. The Chelsea Guardians are to blame for not at once condemning this practice

and forbidding its recurrence. We, however, refrained from reference to the matter until its repetition in the course of a few weeks at the same institution—this time in relation to the Assistant Matron, who has also resigned her appointment—compels us to deal with it. For the second time we read of valuable gifts being presented to an official of the Infirmary, "a silver toast rack from the scrubbers," and "a silver frame from some of the women patients." The acceptance of such gifts from either of these classes is surely to be deprecated. A letter expressing goodwill would be appropriate and unobjectionable, and valued by the recipients, but anything more is quite out of place. The Chelsea Guardians have in the past shown themselves unable to deal effectively with matters of discipline concerning their nursing staff. So long as this only affected the prestige of their own nursing school it was of comparatively small moment, but now that they have permitted the establishment of a precedent derogatory to the honour of the whole nursing profession, we hope that the Local Government Board will take decisive action, and if no regulation at present exists, forbidding officials to accept gifts from patients, we should advise it to frame one without delay.

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