

The circular letter 94—15,612 having been more or less overlooked by the Committee of Management of various Country Hospitals subsidised by the State, particularly in reference to the appointment in these Hospitals of Matrons and Nurses who have not been specially trained for the responsible duties of these offices, I am directed to state for your information and guidance that the following rules, recommended by the Chief Medical Officer of the Government, should be adopted by all Hospitals subsidised from the Public Funds as a condition of such subsidy:—

1. That in future no vacancy which shall occur in the post of Matron or Nurse (male or female) is to be filled by the appointment of any person who has not been trained as a Nurse at an hospital recognized from time to time as a training school for nurses by the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, and who does not hold a certificate from such Training School.
2. That the name of any person selected for the position of Matron or Nurse is to be submitted to the Chief Medical Officer for approval before the appointment is made, and that in submitting the name evidence of training is to be furnished as set forth in the preceding paragraph.
3. That when submitting the accounts for the year to the Chief Secretary a statement is to be furnished showing all appointments made to the position of Matron or Nurse (male or female) during the year.
4. That an attendance book is to be kept in which the members of the Committee, the Visiting Committee, and the Medical Officers shall record their names, with the date and hour of all official visits.
5. That a weekly dietary is to be arranged and fixed by scale, and copy of such dietary placed in the Board rooms of the Hospitals.
6. That books be kept in the Hospitals in which all medicines prescribed for patients be duly recorded, and that these books be not allowed to leave the Institutions.

This letter is chiefly of interest to Nurses, as it empowers the Australian Trained Nurses' Association to define the standard of training qualifying Matrons and Nurses, for appointment in hospitals subsidised from the Public Funds. We congratulate the Association upon this official recognition upon the part of the Government.

Miss McGahey, who, as Hon. Secretary of the Australian Nurses' Association, attended the Buffalo Congress as its delegate, writes: "The Nursing Congress has far surpassed my most sanguine expectations. The Papers and discussions were most instructive. Those of us privileged to be present on that occasion will long remember the warm welcome extended by the American Nurses to the foreign delegates."

We once caused an audible titter in a large clinical class of students when a "salad" sister (fresh and green), by directing an eminent physician to the appearance of his patient, in reply to the usual question, "And how is number four to-day?" "Oh,

wonderfully better, we replied, look at her fringe." This was in the days of curl papers.

Observing our rosy complexion, this wise and practical physician immediately took for the text of his clinical lecture the power of habit in human beings, and the all-powerful force of human vanity. "I stand rebuked, gentlemen," he began, with a sly, kind, little smile across the bed of the patient at the new sister. "Had I glanced at those beautiful little curls, surmounting the brow of our patient—damp wisps of hair at my last visit—I should not have required to touch the pulse, or test the temperature to know that she was on the first rung of the convalescent ladder."

In this connection, as sister of a women's ward, we always thought it somewhat hard that there were no hand glasses provided for the patients, and we well remember the pleasure expressed when we provided them for ward use, although one poor little empyæma, exclaimed, upon seeing it, "Oh, Sister, ain't I a old 'ag.'" "Yes, you are," we agreed, "and if you don't make haste and grow younger this very minute, you shall never have another peep," and she did it.

This apropos of an amusing expression of opinion by an eminent American physician, who declares that a mirror, one of those that flatter the user, is sometimes of more value than an entire medicine chest.

"I began my career," he said, recently, "by serving several months as an interne in a P— hospital. It was the rule there that no ward patient should be allowed to have a mirror of any description, and you might rake every ward in the hospital with a fine-tooth comb without finding a piece of looking-glass as big as a postage stamp.

"The management had formulated and enforced that law with the best interests of the patients at heart, for they figured that to study one's own pallor and sunken cheeks and eyes is conducive to depression of spirits and consequent physical deterioration.

"I consider their reasoning false, but I was only one against many and did not forcibly express my opinion, but discreetly watched the women patients fuming and fussing away in secret over their appearance, of which each tried to get an idea from the description given by her neighbours.

"One day I was passing through a certain ward and I stopped beside the bed of a girl, whose face at that moment wore the most lugubrious expression I had ever seen on a human being. I took

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