

Wainwright, J.P., reigns over all. His energy in boldly appealing to the public for subscriptions has enabled him to pay off a large accumulated debt of nearly £30,000, to open several wards that had long been closed, and to embark on our present course of improvement and extension.

"Our various departments, when large, may be considerably subdivided. Take Nursing, for instance. Practically the nursing department is charged with the domestic arrangements of the hospital, which in so extensive a place are numerous and very important. Each ward is treated more or less as a separate unit, and a Ward Sister is at the head. Regarding the Ward as a house or flat, for it is almost complete in itself, the Ward Sister is its mistress. She is responsible under the Matron for the domestic and nursing arrangements of that ward. A kitchen, where light meals can be cooked, and linen-presses, are attached to each ward, and she has a ward-maid, a nurse, and a probationer under her; some of the larger wards have an increased number of nurses and probationers.

"So, then, if anything goes wrong, with the kitchen grate, for instance, the Ward Sister applies to the Works Department, or if a patient should grow worse, or require unusual attention, she applies to the Medical staff, or for Medicine to the Pharmaceutical. Everything proceeds as by clockwork. We have eleven medical men, and a student who acts as dresser on accident duty always in residence.

#### THE NIGHTINGALE NURSES' TRAINING SCHOOL.

"Before leaving the subject of the staff, I should like to add that our Nurses' Training School is named after Miss Florence Nightingale, who founded it with the money subscribed for her testimonial on her return from her self-sacrificing work in the Crimea. Notwithstanding her advanced age, she still takes a warm interest in the work of the school and the progress of its pupils."

The writer who touches on Employment Topics in the *Queen*, in referring to the Nurses' Settlement Scheme of the R.B.N.A., remarks: "Nurses can, of course, lay by exceedingly little for old age, and it therefore becomes a public duty to further their own efforts by contributions from those who are better off." Why "of course"? We should consider the writer more economically sound if she deprecated the pauperization of trained nurses, and intimated both to them and the public that their arduous and invaluable work for the good of the community should be paid at a rate from which, with thrift, they could secure a competence in old age. Why should trained nurses "of course" be drafted to a Poor House in old age? Let the labourer be paid an honest wage, and let women journalists cease inculcating a spirit of hopelessness in women workers and depreciation of their work in the opinion of the public. A man does not start life turning his steps steadily down the incline to dependence; if he is worth his salt he looks up, and climbs or scrambles, and clings, if even by the skin of his teeth, to the upward path. Away with depreciation where women's work is concerned; it is good, it is

necessary; honour it, demand an honest price for it, and shun the very thought of a dependent old age. Refuges there must be for the weak and unsuccessful. But very few persons would be either if they were taught self-respect from their cradles. Spirit, dear ladies; what you want is a plucky spirit.

We learn that Miss C. B. S. Wilkie, until recently the Lady Superintendent of St. Luke's Hospital, Halifax, has left for South Africa. It will be long before the Halifax Guardians obtain the services of so competent an officer as Miss Wilkie, as head of the nursing department of their hospital, and all those who have the welfare of the sick poor and the efficient education of nurses at heart must regret that she thought it right to resign her appointment. We understand that Miss Wilkie arrived at this decision because she did not feel able to conduct her work under present conditions.

From private sources we learn that under existing arrangements the work of the Lady Superintendent and the steward is considerably dove-tailed, and this in itself is likely to lead to difficulties, as one or other of these officials must be subordinate. For instance, the question, amongst others, immediately arises, as is inevitable, who is responsible for the staff dietary, the Lady Superintendent or the steward? There can be no question that the arrangement of this dietary should be in the hands of the head of the nursing department, if it is placed entirely under the control of either steward or housekeeper, his or her reputation as an economical manager at once becomes a factor in the case, with the inevitable result that the nurses do not have the varied and nourishing diet which is essential if their health is to be maintained at the most efficient standard for the performance of their onerous duties. Without doubt the Lady Superintendent should be head of the nursing and domestic departments, and on no other basis will the Guardians find it easy to obtain the services of a first-class Matron.

We are glad to observe that in spite of considerable opposition, the Woolwich Guardians have decided to appoint a lady as Superintendent of their Homes for Children at Goldie Leigh. On behalf of appointing another male Superintendent it was urged that so many of the boys came from very bad surroundings that it needed a man to deal with them. We are inclined to think that the humanizing influence of a good woman might be invaluable in such cases, while it is manifest that it is most inexpedient to place 200 girls and infants under the superintendence of a master.

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