

a leading London training school, the nurses were simply "commandeered."

In reply to the second statement, we are of opinion that on questions of nursing discipline the opinions of Superintendent Sisters (as there are no Matrons or Superintendents of Nursing in our military administration at present), and not of medical officers should be quoted.

For instance, we may be somewhat exacting, not to say prudish, in our standard of conduct for military nurses, but we frankly own that smoking in the wards in nursing uniform with male acquaintances, even if hidden behind screens, does not commend itself to us. Romps also might be kept within bounds, and a certain game called, "I will be your shepherdess," with its attendant pick-a-back gambols, with the orderlies playing "peeping Tom," may be suitable for an aristocratic house party but hardly for a military hospital. Gossiping from the river bank also, during the matitudinal tubs, may also be entirely harmless—is not mixed bathing permissible along the shores of perfidious Albion?, and running races in nursing uniform, with petticoats well uplifted, with a P.M.O. as starter is no doubt an entirely harmless, if somewhat ungraceful type of recreation, but we repeat and without fear of contradiction that it may all be "entirely satisfactory to the principal medical officers," but it is not decent, and it is not discipline.

Of graver matters we decline to write, unless compelled to do so. We have the report of Mr. Brodrick's Committee before us suggesting drastic reorganisation and reform in the Army Nursing Service. We, in conjunction with others, jealous of the good name and high estimation in which our Army Nursing Service should be held, anxiously await the appointment of the Matron-in-Chief, and subordinate trained nursing officials—appointments which it is to be hoped will be speedily made without fear or favour.

The sooner the Secretary of State for War redeems his promise to the nation in reference to Army Nursing Reform the better. These reforms have got to be.

### **A Regrettable Resignation.**

We learn with regret that Miss Lucy M. Rae, the Lady Superintendent of the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, has felt it necessary to resign her position. Miss Rae's professional record is an excellent one, and her work in her present position is spoken of in the highest terms. At a recent Committee a deputation appointed to interview Miss Rae in order to ascertain her reasons for resignation, reported that she felt

very keenly that certain inferences on the part of the lady visitors were bringing about friction which would increase rather than diminish, that she considered the House Committee had not backed her up as they might have done, and as she feared she would ultimately have to give up her position she felt she would rather do so now.

### **Temperance Policy of the County Council.**

Many district nurses are deeply interested in the Temperance policy of municipal bodies, as they realise in their work the results of intemperance. The new edition of the "London Manual" summarises the Temperance policy of the County Council. The chief "principle" is the abandonment of licences acquired in connection with street improvements. Other "planks" in the Council's Temperance policy are broadly stated as follows:—

1. The abolition of alcoholic drink from the dietary of the inmates of the lunatic and imbecile asylums, and the giving of money in lieu of a beer allowance to the officers.

2. The provision of accommodation in other places than public-houses for the holding of inquests.

3. The abolition of promenades in music-halls, and the prohibition of the sale of drink in the auditoriums.

4. The provision of free dressing-rooms in the public parks, thus removing the necessity of cricketers, footballers, and others using licensed premises for that purpose.

5. The refusal to allow intoxicating drink to be sold in the parks and open spaces, and the provision that all refreshments shall be of the best quality, and sold at the lowest possible tariff.

6. The provision of tea and coffee, &c., for firemen when engaged at fires.

Up to the present time the Council has allowed to lapse ninety-four licences, the approximate premium value of which is estimated at £254,000.

### **In Memoriam.**

A memorial tablet has been placed in the Chapel of St. Mary's Hospital over the seats occupied by the Sisters—

In Memoriam,

MABEL COOK,

Nurse and Sister of this Hospital, from

1893 to 1898.

Matron of the British Lying-in Hospital from

1898 to 1901,

Who died in St. Mary's Hospital, 17th February, 1901, at the early age of 31.

This Tablet was erected by her fellow-workers in token of their affection and esteem, and in lasting remembrance of a faithful, loyal, and devoted life.

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