

water" in the morning; but for the attention necessary at a sick-bed one would require something more than a house-cleaning machine.

Personally, looking at the comparison made by Miss Gardner between this most exemplary maid and the girl of gentle birth who had a really good time after leaving school, I should prefer to embark on the latter as a probationer.

The girl who has had her fun out, and who starts her hospital career with a slight satiety as regards social pleasures, is a safer person to deal with in the long run than the woman whose hitherto subordinate position has permitted of no more exciting recreation than a little horse-play with the footman in the servants' hall.

The truth of this statement can be very easily proved by those who superintend in hospitals to which medical schools are attached.

I do not agree with Miss Gardner's assertion that "class prejudices are dying slowly." Class prejudice will never die in Great Britain; and those who love the Empire best will not wish that it should.

LUCY M. RAE.

Legal Matters.

We observe with some surprise that, in giving judgment in the case of Miss Florence Duddy, a nurse at Brighton—who sued Mr. A. Roberts, a dentist at Hove, for £10 10s. for attendance on Mrs. Roberts, and for board, lodging, and laundry for three weeks—his Honour Judge Martineau stated that he was not aware that it was customary for nurses to charge for board and lodging when they did not sleep on the premises. He did not say it was not a proper charge, but he had never heard of such a charge being made.

This appears to us to be a very strange sort of ignorance upon the part of the learned judge. How does he imagine a private nurse can support herself if she is compelled to pay for her own board and lodging out of her weekly fee, merely because there is no accommodation for her in the house of her patient? A private nurse receives a specified weekly fee, board, lodging, and laundry, as her usual remuneration, and where this cannot be conveniently provided in the house of the patient it is the invariable rule for the patient to pay a specified sum so that the nurse may pay her expenses. In Miss Duddy's case the initial mistake was in having no definite arrangement in writing with regard to emolument with the patient's husband. Owing to their unbusinesslike habits, private nurses, working on their own account, have constant trouble about fees, and this is one of the chief reasons why they prefer to attach themselves to co-operation societies, where the secretary gets in the fees.

Nursing Echoes.

*** All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



Miss Gordon, the retiring Matron of St. Thomas's Hospital, has resigned her seat on the Nursing Board of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service. Miss Gordon has been in active nursing work since 1874, when she entered the Nightingale School as a probationer, so, although all who know her sincerely regret her withdrawal from official connection with the profession, they hope that after well-deserved rest she may take up some of the work of organisation for the profession, of which there is much waiting to be done by willing and experienced helpers.

In the annotated correspondence, now of some weeks' duration, which has appeared in *Truth* on the ever-recurring question of "hospital nursing hours," it is incidentally brought out by the Chairman of the London Hospital that, with all the improvements in the nursing department effected at that hospital within the past decade, the nurses are still on duty till 9.20 p.m. and 9.20 a.m.—hours which we think every experienced superintendent of nurses will condemn.

The twelve-hours night as yet seems inevitable in the majority of hospitals, but the length of time is not so exhausting either to day or night nurses if the hours are arranged so that both batches of nurses go off duty earlier in the evening and morning. This may sound absurd, but the fact remains that it is just that last hour and a half which kills. We have worked in the London wards as a Sister, and know that the nurses flag terribly towards 8 a.m.—after a long and anxious night's work—and that once the lights are down at 8 p.m. in the evening, that last hour was practically the very last straw a conscientious day nurse could stand, and no creature, human or otherwise, should be subjected to the last straw. A nursing staff should change not later than the magic hour of 8, be it morning or evening.

About £3,000 have been subscribed to date towards King Edward VII.'s Coronation National Fund for Nurses in Ireland.

There are rumours of official resignations in the Royal British Nurses' Association. For the sake

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