

Mr. Biron: You are a Midwife? Applicant (indignantly): Oh, dear, no. I am a thorough Nurse. (Loud laughter.) Mr. Biron: My unfortunate suggestion, madam, does not seem to meet with your approval, and I withdraw it if it hurts your feelings. Now what is it I can do for you? Applicant: Last month I was engaged for three weeks certain, and now the lady sends this letter (exhibiting a crumpled paper), saying she don't want me. It's simply scandalous, you know. (Great laughter.) I have two or three other ladies looking forward to my services, and it quite upsets my calculations. It's a nice thing to be put off like this at the last moment. I went round to the house to demand an explanation, and the page boy said the lady had gone out for a walk. Then I saw the husband—I would see him—and he said, 'Go away, woman, from my door. I know too much of your character, and if you are not off I will lock you up.' (Much laughter.) I want to know whether my character can be taken away like that, for I expect to go out again every day. Mr. Biron: Well, then, go out. Applicant: But I can't if he says I have a bad character. Mr. Biron: Probably your other customers won't know it; they will have their own experience. Applicant: But it ought to be stopped. Mr. Biron: Bring an action for slander if you like. Applicant replied: 'Thank you, I will,' and left the court with a business-like air."

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THERE are strange rumours in the Nursing world. The story goes that the Matron of a certain Hospital lately instructed the governing body to give her absolute power over the Probationers at the Institution, to engage or discharge them at her own unfettered will. There seems to have been some very plain speaking on this autocratic proposal, one speaker apparently going so far as to tell his colleagues a little of what has been freely said of them for some years past, outside the Hospital walls. Finally it was, I am told, decided that in future it shall be printed on the Probationers' papers, that they have a power of appeal to the Committee. Those—and their name is legion—who have heard of the manner in which many highly respected members of the Nursing world have been treated at the Hospital in question, will be glad to know that this elementary rule in all other Institutions has been at any rate affirmed there also. Whether the committee will be able to carry it out remains to be seen.

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It is reported that Miss Mollett, the Matron of the Chelsea Infirmary, who is known as a prominent member of the British Nurses' Asso-

ciation, has gone to South Africa to organise and carry on a Hospital and Nursing Institution. I hear on good authority that she was offered this position many weeks ago, but that communications on the subject are still pending, and that nothing has been yet decided. Considering the source from which the report comes there is no cause for wonder at its inaccuracy. But many will much regret to hear that there is any possibility of Miss Mollett leaving England, for it is generally recognised that she has done excellent work at Chelsea; and everyone knows that Poor Law Infirmary work just at this critical time needs all the good heads and hands it can secure.

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*Apropos* of Infirmarys, I hear that Miss Wood, the Secretary of the B.N.A., has been appointed Inspector of the Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association, and will in that capacity make constant and unexpected visits to the Association's Nurses at the Institutions throughout the country where they may be appointed. It seems to me to be a capital measure, and I hope foreshadows the time when Inspectors for General Hospitals will be appointed by Government. Many think that these will be one outcome of the Commission on Hospitals, which is to begin work next year. Anyhow, the W.I.N. Association is to be congratulated upon securing the services of Miss Wood as its first Inspector. Miss Wood has, in addition to her other labours, as I mentioned a short time ago, opened an hotel for Nurses, so that country Members of the B.N.A. now will have no difficulty in finding convenient and good accommodation during their visits to London.

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THE *Broad Arrow* had a capital article lately on circumlocution in Military Hospitals. Amongst other things, it gives an amusing account of the procedure by which a patient in a Hospital who wishes to write to his friends can obtain the necessary paper and a stamp. It ought to be able to be obtained from the orderly by payment; but according to regulations it can only be obtained from the captain of the company to which the man belongs. The following is the prescribed routine which must be gone through in order to obtain it:—1. The patient must make out a requisition for the articles required (no mention is made as to where the paper on which to write the requisition is to be obtained). 2. He must obtain the doctor's signature to the document, and this in some Hospitals can only be got on three days in each week. 3. The Hospital orderly in charge of the Ward must see the orderly corporal in charge of the sick from the patient's corps, and get him

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