

not be considered intruding in perhaps occasionally sending a few lines for insertion.

"I fancy the reason the nurses have not taken much interest in the paper is because they are always so very impressively given to understand by the 'powers that be' that they must attend to nothing but their own nursing affairs. Just at present we are trying to digest the fact that nurses may not use the centre lift, but the one nearest 'Mellish.' It is very nice, of course, to let the men always get ahead of us, but in this instance it's a little tiresome, especially if one happens to be a trifle late for dinner, and has to plod wearily along the whole length of the corridor twice in order to reach the dining-room without gaining a late mark.

"As one of our nurses said yesterday, 'the centre lift appears to be for the use of the high-born only, while the "Mellish" lift is for the use of milk-cans, dinner-trays, nurses, and other rubbish.'

"I think I'd better close this letter, or you may come to the conclusion that perhaps nurses had better not do their little best in writing for the *Gazette*; but, if you could only realise how much we should like to make it our confidential friend, you would forgive—

"Yours truly,

"A MELLISH CASTAWAY."

It is sometimes very useful to have the power of airing a grievance, and we hope that the "centre lift" is now available for the use of the nursing staff.

In the *American Journal of Nursing*, a "District Nurse" writes:—"Nurses who have had hospital experience only, with the use of very expensive drugs, such as tincture of larkspur, or of dangerous disinfectants, such as corrosive sublimate, for pediculosis, may be glad to know of the cheap and eminently satisfactory modes of treatment which we use in our work.

"Kerosene oil, undiluted, is one of the best parasiticides. A fifteen-minutes' soaking of the hair and head in kerosene will completely destroy all lice, even of the worst variety. Even a much shorter period of soaking will kill everything, but our usual method in teaching the mothers is to have them apply the kerosene for three days in succession. This kills any newly-hatched lice which may appear from the nits. It is not certain that the kerosene kills the nits entirely, and for these we get the best results from the use of hot vinegar. The vinegar should be of full strength, and made as hot as it can be applied.

"It seems to dissolve the gelatinous substance by which the nits are attached to the hair, and after its application they can all be brushed or rubbed off.

"We apply the hot vinegar in routine cases the day after the last application of kerosene. If no live lice are in the head, but nits are on the hair, the hot vinegar may be used to loosen them without using kerosene. The hot vinegar has no bad effect upon the hair, and kerosene is good for it."

Curiously, an experienced English Sister has recently brought to our notice the efficacy of paraffin in this connection.

## The Hospital World.

### A RECORD OF EVENTS AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL.

Mr. Newton H. Nixon, the energetic Secretary of University College Hospital, has compiled an interesting "Record of Events" in connection with this institution from 1882 to 1901. This brings the history of the Hospital from its foundation, which he published in 1882, up to date. It will be received with interest by all who have been connected with the medical and nursing staffs of the Hospital as well as by a wider public. In regard to the Nursing Department, we find that from 1860 to 1898 it was in charge of the Sisters of All Saints, the two Sister Superiors during this period being Sister Gertrude Anna, from 1860 to 1882, and Sister Cecilia, from 1882 to 1899, when the Community resigned the work. At the conclusion of their term of office the Committee of the Hospital expressed their gratitude to the All Saints' Sisterhood "for the very zealous, kindly, and efficient manner in which they had given their services and carried out their arduous duties since 1860." At the same time, a presentation of one of Raphael's pictures was made to the Sister Superior by the Hospital Committee and Medical Staff.

The retirement of the All Saints' Sisters involved the entire reorganisation of the Nursing Department, and it was arranged that the nursing should be carried on under the immediate supervision of a Nursing Committee, consisting of some members of the Hospital Committee and Medical Staff. Mr. R. Horton Smith, K.C., was elected its first chairman. Miss H. E. G. Hamilton, trained at St. Thomas's Hospital, was appointed as Matron, and a new staff of Sisters, nurses, and probationers, including some of the former nurses and probationers, were appointed and commenced duty on September 1st, 1899. As the Record only extends to 1901, the resignation of Miss Hamilton, on her appointment to the Matronship of St. Thomas's Hospital last year, and the appointment of Miss Dora Finch, who at present holds the position of Matron, are not chronicled. In 1884, Nurse Elizabeth Church, one of the oldest members of the Nursing Staff, died, and Dr. Arnold Brünn, a few years later, gave £400 to found a Nurses' Library in her memory. This nurse and Nurse Ellen Harrington were appointed St. Katherine's Nurses in 1879 by her late Majesty Queen Victoria, and were re-appointed to this Order in 1882. Another notable event in the history of the nursing school was the opening of three floors of the Nurses' Home—for long badly needed—at the close of 1900. The remaining two floors were opened in 1901, in which year also sketch plans were prepared for the private nursing home on a site in University Street.

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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)