

work in connection with the private hospital for wounded officers during the South African War, is, it is understood, to have charge of a small private hospital in London in connection with the King's Convalescent Hospital at Osborne. This institution is to be opened early in the year, and will be entirely for the use of officers in the Army who are invalided home or who require special medical or surgical attention."

Miss Agnes Keyser is the untrained lady who wore full nursing uniform, and, of course, the Order of the Red Cross, when invited to a meal to meet the King. It will be interesting to learn if this proposed hospital for officers is in any way connected with the War Office, and, if so, if certificated Nursing Sisters are to be placed under the charge and direction of an untrained Superintendent. Society women are so determined to have a look in where sick officers are concerned that nothing they demand need surprise us.

The more we consider the management of work-houses, the more certain we are that the appointment of educated trained nurses as Matrons is the only hope for the good government of these institutions.

Listen to this section of the report made by Mr. P. H. Bagenall, Local Government Inspector to the Halifax Board of Guardians. He said, amongst other things, he was very disappointed to find the state of the children's block not at all satisfactory, making every allowance for the fact that the children were having their holidays. He was not satisfied with the state of their clothing. Their stockings were full of holes, and ragged to an extent that was not at all proper, and showed want of supervision. The shirts of a good many of the children were also ragged. Their boots were all right as far they went, but they had only one pair apiece. The conveniences for storing away their clothes were absolutely inadequate. He found the Sunday clothes all heaped up on the floor of the dormitories, and the reason alleged was that there was no accommodation for them. It was impossible for an Inspector to pass such a state of things as that. In the boys' bathroom there were only three basins for thirty-two boys to wash in. Some of the beds were unsatisfactory, and there were no ticks to renew them. Generally speaking there was an absence of organisation, which seemed to him almost deplorable. In one dormitory there were twenty-four beds occupied by thirty-two boys. He thought the practice of two boys sleeping in one bed was very undesirable. This room was about 40 ft. by 20 ft., and, therefore, with a minimum of 300 cubic ft. for each boy, only twenty-seven boys ought to sleep in the room, whereas there were thirty-two boys. The attendants' bedrooms were

small cubicles. They ought to have proper bedrooms. According to the beautiful report, filled with fine sentiments and admirable periods, the Guardians were going to do everything one could desire, and it was on the faith of these representations that he advised the Local Government Board to sanction the removal of the children from one part of the house to another. They had done nothing of the sort. He thought the Guardians ought to take one of the wards on the other side of the house, and make more room for the children and attendants. In the infirm and convalescent blocks he found that the walls and ceilings in the corridors especially were exceedingly dirty, and the nurses' stores were also dirty. The whole of the male side of the house showed want of proper superintendence and attention to detail, without which they could not have good administration.

Such superintendence can only be given by a *trained administrator* in nursing and domestic science. We wonder how long it will be before the Local Government Board realises this fact. When it has such an administrator as Matron-in-Chief of a Poor Law Nursing Service—not before.

The Newton Guardians have at last realised that the sick require attention at night as well as in the day, and at their recent meeting they rescinded a most improper resolution—that the night nurses might spend their duty hours in an outside room instead of in the wards; and, moreover, we are glad to observe that our suggestion that both nurses should not be off duty at the same time for meals during the night has found favour with the Board. What is a night nurse for if she is not to be watching and caring for the patients? At the same time it appears there is only a staff of two nurses on night duty in eight wards. Efficient nursing seems almost hopeless under such circumstances.

The question as to what is the best flooring for hospital wards is a difficult one to answer. Personally we think *terazzo* the best material in use so far. Boards which are polished are not sanitary unless they are kept very highly polished, and, this being the case, such boards have never seemed to us an ideal material for hospital wards. Convalescents getting up for the first time are very tottery often. In the surgical wards, patients with newly-united fractures are certainly at a disadvantage when learning to use crutches, while, on the medical side, even if wearing felt slippers, the locomotor ataxy is apt to feel the insecurity of his position. It has been proved also that the feet of nurses do not get nearly so tired when they work in wards having *terazzo* floors.

In our probationer days "foot night" was an honoured weekly custom in the majority of well-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)