

reason that sick persons are usually worse then. She rises from her sleep, takes supper between seven and eight p.m., and remains on duty till the doctor's morning visit is paid, probably doing a stretch, with very few and short intervals, of about fourteen hours. Yet what is the complaint from the kitchen? First, nurse's refreshment tray for the night, then nurse's early tea are the subjects for grumbling. 'Takes a lot of waiting on,' is a common form of expression. Worse still, if nurse cannot take tea, demands cocoa or coffee at an hour unusual for it to be made. More than to most, though, her health is her fortune. Personal discomfort apart, it would be madness for her to go without enough nourishment, or take things that make her ill; on her nerve—on what an athlete would call 'form'—may depend her patient's life. To their shame, even the members of the family are often lacking in their recognition of the all-importance of the nurse's well-being. 'I never took my clothes off for a week'—'I have not been out of the house since he was taken ill'—are foolish boasting often heard from those who should know better, the occasion being perhaps the nurse's noonday airing, and regular retiring to her bed. It seems incredible that sane people should forget that their great crisis, their fearful trial of temporary duration, is the trained nurse's daily lot year in and year out. Her health is her capital; if she led a life such as some seem to demand, she would speedily become ripe for a sick bed or an asylum. And, after all, despite the urgent need of her keeping well, how much more often a professional nurse does more, not less, than she is paid to. One I knew, where the patient was the mistress of a cramped, inconvenient flat, and the only help a charwoman, trimmed lamps, cooked and nursed indefatigably, and all with the loveliest grace. No, we do ourselves less than justice if we give not the nurse her due."

There are nurses—and nurses. Of the best it may be said that their value to the public in time of critical illness is quite inestimable. Unfortunately, at the present time many of the so-called "nurses" who undertake the nursing care of the public have no adequate qualifications for the work they assume.

At the annual meeting of the Frank James Memorial Cottage Hospital, East Cowes, when H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg, Governor of the Isle of Wight, presided, Mr. G. Shedden, the Hon. Secretary, said:—The hospital was working in a first-rate way and doing a great deal of good in the locality. It had been nearly, if not quite, full ever since it had been open, and there had been times when cases had to be held back because there was no room for them. He congratulated all interested in the institution that they had such an able Matron in Miss Learmonth. She was most skilful and able, extremely kind, had given the

Committee every satisfaction, and the patients who had been under her care had spoken most kindly of her. Many letters of thanks had been received from patients who had been treated at the institution.

Miss Lottie Burgess, a Huddersfield nurse, on a visit to Scarborough, had a disagreeable accident whilst cycling there. She was riding down a steep hill leading from the racecourse when she lost control of her bicycle and came violently into collision with the bank. She was quickly conveyed to a hospital, where it was found that her collar-bone was fractured.

At a meeting of the committee of the Cardiff Seamen's Hospital, under the presidency of Alderman David Jones, a letter on behalf of the Bute trustees, with respect to their proposal for entrusting the indoor administration of the institution to Sisters of a Roman Catholic religious order was considered. The trustees stated they now recognise that such a scheme would under existing circumstances be inexpedient, and they therefore relied on the assurances already given that Lord Bute's wishes would be respected so far as possible, and that a proportion of the nursing staff would be members of the Roman Catholic Church.

It is always unsound policy to select a nurse on any other basis than that of her professional efficiency, and, in an institution which appeals to the public for support, there are cogent reasons against it. In regard to religious matters, the duty of a nurse is to secure for the patient, if possible, the ministrations of any priest or minister he desires, or one of the church or denomination to which he belongs. No attempt should ever be made by a nurse to proselytise amongst her patients. If this rule is strictly adhered to there should be no difficulty at Cardiff of whatever religious persuasion the nurses engaged may be.

Dr. McArthur has addressed the Local Government Board with regard to the recent outbreak of small-pox in Ayrshire. Amongst other things he stated that the Davidshill Small-pox Hospital is ridiculously understaffed, the Matron being matron, cook, day nurse, and night nurse all in one.

The unstaffing of small infectious hospitals is, we fear, of too common occurrence. Local authorities often seem unable to understand that a nurse, being but human, requires a certain amount of rest in the twenty-four hours. While she is taking it the discomfort and danger in which serious cases are placed is easy to imagine. But, further, the type of woman who is willing to accept a post of the nature described is not, as a rule, a trained nurse at all, in which case the sick are in a still worse position.

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