

Following the excellent example of Miss Dock, our International Secretary, who has recently spent two years in Europe, acquainting herself with the condition of nursing in many countries, a Sister in the German Colonial Service, who has been working in China for four years, is to leave early in the new year for a tour round the world, when she will observe the condition of nursing in India, Australasia, and America, before returning to Germany to help in the organisation of the nursing profession in Germany. That is just the *thorough* way the Germans do things; they are going to *know* all there is to know, and then *start off right away* and improve upon it.

This German Sister will take with her introductions from the International Council of Nurses. In India she will find a Vice-President, Miss Mill; in Australasia the President, Miss M'Gahay; and in America the Hon. Sec., Miss L. L. Dock, so that we have no doubt her tour will be made as instructive as possible.

We are glad to learn that Miss Kate Penn has by no means given up her interest in the question of providing trained nurses as "officers" on ocean steamships. At present, however, acting on the advice of a gentleman connected with the shipping trade, matters are at a standstill till the shipping trade improves.

The fact is, that owing to the publicity given to the question, principally in this journal, the shipping companies are greatly increasing the number of "nurse stewardesses." This substitute, Miss Penn does not consider, will ultimately prevent the introduction of trained nurses on steamships with the status of officer. Here we disagree with her. The "nurse stewardess" is a much cheaper article than a "nursing officer," and once adopted as a substitute by steamship companies, will be very difficult to dislodge. We object to these hybrids, either have a stewardess or a trained nurse, but do not employ the former in the capacity of the latter, it injures the honest reputation of both.

A correspondence has been going on in the Birmingham papers on the subject of the overstrain of nursing, the long hours of constant standing, and the short hours off duty. Some of the letters show an inclination to exaggerate the evils, but we cannot get away from the fact that the work of a hospital nurse, if well done, is arduous, the mental and physical strain combine to make it so.

So much has been done of late years to improve the conditions under which nurses work in hospitals, and the expenses of maintaining an efficient staff have so enormously increased, that parents who complain that modern conditions are too strenuous, will have to look facts in the face. To provide a son with a profession or trade by which to earn his living, that son's education has to be paid for; but, in the large majority of cases, girls become nurses because they get a free professional education, the while also receiving board, lodging, uniform, and washing. Nursing Economics are becoming a very great factor in the Nursing Question, and we are rapidly coming to the time when parents must realise that they must pay for the scientific education of their daughters as well as of their sons. The charitable public have already called "halt" to the subsidisation of medical education, and they do not intend to provide further free education for nurses. So please, parents, realise your duty towards your daughters; hospitals are not husbands, to whom they can be handed over with merely the parental blessing; you must add the *dot*.

It is, happily, rare to hear of such treatment of a patient as that meted out to one suffering from nerve disease, who was an inmate of the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth. The only person on the spot who seems to have been inspired by common-sense and humanity was the Matron, Miss Harriet Hopkins.

The case was one of a woman from Torquay, who was not found suitable for hospital treatment. The friends, when communicated with, refused to take her back, so she was wrapped in blankets and sent to the workhouse. The Guardians on the previous day having considered a letter relative to the case, and decided not to admit it, the Master, acting on the instructions he had received, refused to do so. The bearers intimated that they were instructed to leave the patient on the doorstep. The Master then went over to the hospital, when Dr. Pope informed him he would "keep it up till the morning," and that if the woman were not admitted to the workhouse he should put her into the street. On his return, the Master found a crowd collected round the entrance, and the woman distressed at the exposure, so he temporarily removed her to the receiving ward while he obtained further advice. Later in the afternoon he accompanied the woman, carried by two of his men, to the hospital, had another interview with Dr. Pope, and told him that the entrance of the workhouse would be locked

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