

against his men. Dr. Pope refused to keep the patient, and again said he would have her put in the street. Ultimately, after the Matron had made several appeals on behalf of the patient, and apparently acting on instructions from Dr. Bertram Soltau, Dr. Pope told the Matron to do what she liked with the woman, when she was at once admitted to the wards. We cannot decide on the merits of the difference between the two institutions, but we do unhesitatingly say that the authorities concerned should have settled the procedure to be adopted, and not have played battledore and shuttlecock with the unfortunate patient.

Nurse Nield, the first nurse of the Uttoxeter Nursing Association, who has now resigned her position, was, at the monthly meeting of the Executive Committee, presented with a silver mounted lizard skin purse containing a sum of money, as a mark of appreciation of her services and of the admirable manner in which she carried out her duties as district nurse. Nurse Nield, in suitably acknowledging the gift, said she would always remember her residence in Uttoxeter with pleasure.

*Nursing Notes* this month contradicts a statement made in this journal on October 21st, which it at the same time misinterprets. We said: "We learn that a few Matrons who are associated together through the Midwives' Institute, who accepted seats on the Council of the proposed Society for the Higher Education and Training of Nurses, met at Guy's Hospital on Tuesday evening to discuss the matter."

We never said that "a meeting of Matrons took place," but that "a few Matrons met at Guy's Hospital," and so they did round a festive board as they had a perfect right to do. Neither did we say that "Matrons are associated with this scheme through the Midwives' Institute."

These suggestions are very disingenuous, but what are the facts? Take *Nursing Notes*, January, 1905, page 3, first column, and under the heading "The Midwives' Institute and Trained Nurses' Club," read as follows:—

"The institute divides its work among various committees, who are all responsible to, and report to, the Council. . . . The Sectional Committee (Nursing) has charge of any special question that concerns nurses and nursing that may be brought before it."

There is a Chairman of this Committee, and associated with her are several well-

known Matrons and others. It is a fact that the Articles and Memorandum of the Society for the Higher Education and Training of Nurses was submitted to this committee, and considered by it in the *utmost privacy*, and that several of the ladies thus associated together through the Midwives' Institute—we repeat it—approved of its drastic constitution, and consented to accept seats on the proposed Council. We are glad to hear that some of these ladies have been convinced of the unpopularity of the scheme.

A correspondent in the Mauritius sends us the following interesting information, and as so many nurses who have tried nursing in the island have found conditions of work exceedingly difficult and have returned home, we think the following letter may throw some light on the cause of such resignations upon the part of English trained nurses:—

"A very good description of the island and the people is to be found in Mark Twain's 'More Tramps Abroad,' which may seem exaggerated to those who have never been here, but is really just what the place is and the people are. Some parts of the island are charming, and the climate for several months (August, September, and October) almost perfect, I think. After, it begins to get very hot and damp, and there is the continual dread of cyclones from December until April. Our work consists principally of maternity cases and typhoid. There is always a lot of the latter about, and malaria simply rages all over the island; in fact, Port Louis, the capital, has the highest or second highest death-rate in the world owing to the malaria. We have plague here, but I have never seen it, and the beginning of this year there was an epidemic of small-pox, which seems to have been stamped out.

"We work chiefly among the French Mauritians, and I am sorry to say it is not very congenial, as their habits are anything but nice, most of them have a dislike to fresh air and water. In the evening the servants go round and shut up, not only the windows and doors but the hurricane shutters also, so the state of the atmosphere in the morning can better be imagined than described. I once nursed a typhoid for five weeks, and during the whole of that time the window was open once, the hurricane shutters were closed, and the room lighted by candles! I appealed to the doctor in vain, as he was a cousin of the patient, he took her part. I nursed the same woman a year after and she absolutely refused to be washed. Again I appealed to the doctor, but he said, 'I'd let her alone, she has a little cold.' So for the fortnight I was there she only had her face and hands washed. This was a maternity case, of course the necessary changing was done but not oftener than absolutely necessary (to her). At my first case here when I went to bed at night I found the baby's wet (not washed) napkins hung round my bed, also on every available chair and box in the room. Of course, I

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