

The telephone is not used for summoning the ambulance, as is the case in many of the provincial, Continental, and American cities. Leeds, Birkenhead, Manchester, Liverpool, and Belfast are all better off than we are in London in this respect. Moreover, there are only three horse ambulances in London at the disposal of the police.

Where is the out-patient officer who has not realised the needless cruelty involved in the present system of conveying wounded people in cabs? A simple fracture may be converted into a compound one, and dangerous syncope result from the use of such vehicles, for in neither the four-wheeler nor the hansom can the patient lie down. He has to be propped or doubled up. At the recent Highgate tram smash the injured were carried away on shutters. That shows how far London is behind every other large city in Western Europe or America in the provision for street accidents or casualties.

At the recent Jubilee Celebration dinner in aid of the Roman Catholic Hospital of St. John and St. Elizabeth, the Hon. Charles Russell supporting the toast of the hospital told rather a good story.

On the Board of Management, he said, we have from time to time financial worries, but there is one class of worry which we at least are spared. I am told by members of other Boards of Management that a good deal of their time and thought are taken up with their nurses. I have sat upon this Board for some years, and I have never heard that question raised with regard to St. Elizabeth's. We have there the good and devoted nuns skilled and disciplined and framed in obedience, who go about their work and never give us anything but cause to thank them again and again for their care and attention to their work. Whenever I go into the hospital I cannot help recalling a case that was tried in the Law Courts many years ago. Perhaps some of you may remember it. It was a case in which a Rev. Mother of a convent was severely cross-examined by Sir John Coleridge. The case was one in which a nun who had been requested to leave the convent brought an action against the Rev. Mother for dismissing her, and the Rev. Mother was in the witness-box justifying her dismissal. Sir John Coleridge asked her why she dismissed this Sister. She said, "I dismissed her because she was not submissive to discipline." "Would you, madam, please tell the jury one of her most serious offences?"

"Well," said the lady, "I remember on one occasion when she should have been in the poor school I found her in the pantry eating strawberries and cream." Sir John Coleridge drew himself up and he said with great gravity: "Then, madam, is it such an heinous offence to eat a strawberry?" "Oh no," said the Rev. Mother, "any more than to eat an apple, but you know what trouble came of that." The Rev. Mother won her case.

Dr. A. Ogier Ward, the Hon. Secretary of the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund, in thanking us "for the very excellent report of our Concert and the work of the fund," expresses surprise that some nurses object to being made objects of charity and thinks such objections can only be due to happy ignorance of the risks of the nursing profession. The same post which brought him our journal also brought him a very pathetic letter from an old nurse, a doctor's daughter, crippled with rheumatism, and through ill-health and misfortune quite unable to earn her living, evidently in very great need. Dr. Ogier Ward wonders what nurses who have complained of being objects of charity would do for such a case?

We do not think it is lack of sympathy with the misfortunes of colleagues, which inspires working women with a distaste for charity, but the instinct springs more often from a justifiable desire to have their industrial conditions so amended, that pauperisation would be impossible. But this can only be done in the future by co-operation amongst nurses, so that they may obtain for themselves that "hire" of which they are worthy. So long as hundreds of women are expected to work for a small salary from which they cannot save a penny, and it is considered justifiable for charitable institutions to make large sums of money out of their work, so long will they be subject to destitution in old age, and be compelled to accept alms. It is a sorry condition of affairs. But there is a remedy—co-operation—co-operation, and again co-operation. Meanwhile, help must be given to those who have, through unjust industrial conditions, fallen by the way.

The Marchioness of Bute has started a 20,000 shillings fund for the Cardiff Branch of the Queen's Nurses, and already several thousand shillings have rolled in.

For sixteen years the Cardiff and district branch of the Jubilee Institute for Nurses has been in existence, and yet it is doubtful whether the inhabitants of the city and the surrounding

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