

"A doctor of our acquaintance found a private patient exhibiting unexpected symptoms. What could the reason be? Acting on a sudden inspiration, he asked the undertrained nurse, 'Did you give the patient one-fortieth of a grain of strychnine this morning, as I ordered?' 'No!' said this functionary, 'or, I mean yes; I didn't have no fortieths, so I gave him two-twentieths'"

"Another doctor was caring for a gynecological case with the assistance of a nurse who had six months in a hospital. A kinder creature never lived; accordingly, she flatly refused to give the medicated douche ordered for her patient, because she had never heard of anything so strong being used on a woman. And, with an equal tenderness for her, she added to the medicines prescribed by the doctor a dollar bottle of a well-known and widely advertised patent medicine, because she knew that it was very healing in such cases."

"You never know what one of these original geniuses will do next. Usually, however, they may be relied on to work at a lower rate than the standard, always with an eye out for the maximum pay wherever there is a chance. It is her cheapness that keeps the undertrained nurse in the field. A mechanic who was engaging a nurse for his wife remarked to the writer: 'When our first baby came I was earning 10 dollars a week and paying a trained nurse 20 dollars a week. A fellow can't keep up that sort of thing very long at a time. Guess you'll have to send around a cut-price nurse this time, doctor.' And the doctor did, and without attributing to that family any unreasonable prejudice against trained nurses."

"Some day the trained and overtrained nurses will profit by their long competition with the cheap nurse. They will see society as she sees it—as the social worker sees it. They will devise means to supply the poor and those of moderate incomes with the best of nursing at the lowest of prices. And then the undertrained nurses will begin to go to school, or go out of business."

We are warmly in sympathy with the poor and the middle classes being supplied with the most efficient nursing—instead of the makeshift stuff often provided at present. It can, and should be done, but the deficit must be made up by the community at large, and not at the expense of trained nurses, than which nothing can be more illogical and unjust.

As we go to press a resolution on State Registration of Nurses is being discussed at the Annual Representatives' Meeting of the British Medical Association at Caxton Hall, London.

### London Temperance Hospital.

A particularly pleasing incident took place at the last meeting of the Board of Management of the London Temperance Hospital, held on Monday, July 23rd, when the Matron made a presentation to the Board on behalf of the nurses.

The Board are under the necessity of erecting a new building for their Out-patient and Casualty Departments, and have found some difficulty in raising the £10,000 involved.

The present nurses, together with a few past nurses, have among themselves collected £130 towards this object, and the Matron found a purse containing this sum and a card with the following inscription upon her table, on the morning following her return from her summer vacation.

"To Matron, the enclosed £130 for the new Out-patient Department, from the present and a few past nurses of the London Temperance Hospital, in token of their affection for their training school."

The members of the Board were very much gratified and impressed by this kindly token of sympathy and interest by the nursing staff, and adopted a special resolution in order to record the event on the minutes of proceedings.

### International News.

Miss Amy Turton, Hon. Vice-President for Italy of the International Council of Nurses, who has helped so materially in teaching modern nursing systems in Florence, has given up the Villa Natalia Nursing Home in that beautiful city and has handed it over to the English Nursing Sisters (Little Company of Mary), who will carry on the work, reopening the institution in October.

Miss Turton is going to devote herself to organising a Nursing School in Rome, which it is hoped to open in the winter in the new private hospital which is in course of erection in the Corso d'Italia, of which we hope to have further details by-and-by.

Miss Turton's plan of working with Roman Catholic Sisters, and teaching probationers of the same faith is most necessary in a county where the nursing of the sick is largely in the hands of religious, and the result of her devoted work in Italy is already bearing good fruit.

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