

The consequence is that in 1906 twenty-three midwifery cases, besides cases of general illness, were undertaken by the nurses from the Royal Alexandra Hospital, in their off-duty time and in addition to their ordinary work. Poor women, on obtaining a letter from a doctor stating that they are too poor to pay for attendance, are attended free for a week or ten days, and in many cases nourishment has also to be provided. The Lady Superintendent does not consider it right that nurses who are working hard all day should be asked to attend cases in their off-duty time, neither can it be considered fair for a nurse on the private staff to be kept for these free cases, when it is remembered that if at a private case she would be earning at least a guinea and a half a week for the Hospital in addition to her board, lodging, and laundry expenses. The town increases in size year by year, and if this valuable work is to continue and expand, sufficient money should be forthcoming to enable the Lady Superintendent to have a nurse for every case. She therefore invites ladies to volunteer and help the good cause.

*Nosokomos*, the Dutch Nursing paper, still carries on a fiery correspondence between the brothers and sisters of its nursing world. A Sister, G. B., casts herself with more zeal than discretion into the strife, and abuses the brothers generally with great heartiness. One of her complaints is that she met a brother who had been a fellow nurse of hers working as a lift porter. She has asked many of her patients—all reply they prefer sisters to brothers to nurse them. A male nurse replies. He begins by saying that silence is a great virtue, and that it would have been better if Dr. Aletrino who started the discussion had remembered that fact, Dr. Aletrino being a partisan of the sisters. He states that more and more brothers are called for by the public, quotes Florence Nightingale in praise of male nurses, and makes a strong charge against the directors of hospitals who send "children of eighteen or nineteen to wait upon men." He also justifies himself by calling upon his readers to remember a pamphlet called "Under Cover of Charity," which seems to have been an unpleasant little publication. He assures Sister G. B. that "only out of chivalry" did her male patients tell her that they preferred a female to a male nurse to wait upon them, that there are "many youths, nice youths," training now in hospitals who have replaced the unsuitable men who were unequal to their tasks.

Two other sisters take up the cudgels—one defends the female nurses against the slights

cast upon them—but desires to be just to the brothers: "where they are necessary, and they are necessary, they should be the sister's equals, be regarded as her male colleagues, and should be treated as such. But that is just the sister's difficulty, there are so few educated trained male nurses," and so on.

The other letter is even more interesting as it is by the sister of a male ward exclusively nursed by male nurses, who certainly does not find them less capable than female nurses; she praises them and again points out how necessary they are in male wards. She writes: "'Tis a thousand pities that the brothers have severed themselves from the sisters in their Association, but still greater pity is it that it had to be. The brothers are not thinking only of money; they ask for the same work as the sisters, the same rights. Let us leave the patient to decide whether he will be nursed by a man, or a woman, but let us not say that a man cannot be as good a nurse as a woman."

She calls upon sisters and brothers to cease fighting, and to hold together and work together as good comrades. The correspondence, which is long and not yet finished, throws a curious sidelight on Dutch nursing conditions.

Lady Minto's gorgeous fête for the Calcutta Hospitals, now closed, has been a huge success. The results are expected to yield about £20,000. At its conclusion the Viceroy thanked the soldiers and sailors, who had taken part in the arrangements, for their hard work.

Dr. Evans, the Medical Officer of the "Port Kingston," gives a graphic description in the *British Medical Journal* of the surgical aid that was rendered to the victims of the Kingston earthquake. In this article, he states:—

"To Nurse Cross, of the Middlesex Hospital, I owe an everlasting debt of gratitude. She happened to be a passenger on the ship, and on hearing that the 'Port Kingston' was turned into a temporary hospital she hurried down to our assistance. She worked night and day without rest of any kind, and showed such skill, fortitude, and endurance that Jamaica should ever remember her.

"As to the actual surgical work, it was nothing but setting fractures of every description; arresting hæmorrhage by ligature and tourniquet, cleansing wounds and amputating limbs. Such severe injuries it has never been my lot before to witness, in spite of a lengthened experience in military surgery during the South African War."

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