

superintendent" who will have practically full authority only over the probationers. Sisters are to go to her only for advice. All complaints are to be taken to the Medical Superintendent of the hospital, and in him is to be vested the power of dismissing, reproofing, punishing. The housekeeping superintendent will not even have the power of inspecting the Sisters' private rooms, this duty being assigned to the Medical Superintendent, and in order that she shall have enough to do she is to take charge of a division of the hospital. It reads very like the complicated duties of the Superintending Sister of the Army Nursing Service before the reforms instituted by Q. A. I. M. N. S. Our contemporary expresses editorially some natural doubt as to how such a system will work, and looks forward to changes. The Sister selected for this post at first refused it, but on pressure by the Committee has accepted it for six months. The article goes on to say that by such an arrangement the responsibility of each individual Sister for the satisfactory work of the Dusseldorf community as a whole is increased. It draws attention to the real meaning of the word "Sister." A Sister should be no selfish, undisciplined woman, but a pioneer in all social progress and reform, not one who merely pursues a trade for a living. The Sisters are warned that though they will be protected from arbitrary treatment, things will not become smooth and satisfactory all at once but gradually, and that real unselfishness and professional worth always tell in the end. Only those willing to work in this way are asked to offer themselves for Dusseldorf—62 are wanted and 57 are already nominated, thus leaving only 5 vacancies immediately, though in all probability with the extension of the work, more will be required.

The question of the employment of women nurses in connection with the United States Navy is still under consideration, and the Surgeon-General (Surgeon-General Presley M. Rixey), has made a further strong recommendation that Congress be requested to enact a law authorising the employment of trained women nurses for the Navy. He points out that in all modern wars the services of women nurses have proved invaluable for the care of the sick and wounded, and that in time of peace such nurses would secure for the sick in naval hospitals a better medical and surgical nursing service than is now obtained, and would be of great use in teaching and training the men of the hospital corps. In time of war they would be needed for hospital ships, and their presence in hospitals would release a

large number of hospital corps men for duty on board men-of-war. It is stated that the recommendations of the Surgeon-General have the approval of the Navy Department.

## The Hospital World.

### CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL.

Little do those who criticise the comfort and refinement of our hospitals for the sick poor realise the elevating influence they have on the nation.

Doctors, students, nurses, and the domestic staff, to say nothing of the millions of patients who pass through the hospital wards or out-patients' departments yearly must necessarily be affected by their surroundings. The tone of refinement, of courtesy, of kindness, which now prevails is a striking contrast from Dickens' day, when Bob Sawyer and Sairey Gamp were in possession of our hospitals, and is a practical proof of progress.

These were my thoughts on January 2nd, when I entered the spacious Out-Patients' Hall at Charing Cross Hospital, where the Resident Medical and Nursing Staff were "At Home" and where a delightful concert was being given for the patients. Professionals, amateurs, society people, and students, gave their services, and one wondered whether the patients, the nursing staff, the guests or performers were happiest. Comic songs and amusing recitations, which caused laughter, so wholesome, and hearty to hear, surely did the patients more good at the stage of convalescence than any tonics from the dispensary, and will for many a year bring back happy recollections of the kindness they have received from the visiting and resident staff, from the students and bonnie young nurses in their bright uniforms and dainty caps.

During the interval refreshments were served to the patients, Miss Heather-Bigg, the charming Matron, taking the lead in many acts of kindness and courtesy, both to the patients and to friends and guests.

The Out-Patients' Hall lined with white tiles, and inset pictures, which must help the weary hours of waiting, was charmingly decorated, as well as the platform, which was draped with a gay and attractive curtain.

In fact everything was gay, bright and amusing, and no trouble was spared on anybody's part to make it so—from the porter who helped you out of your hansom, to the one who whistled for one and helped you in. On the close of the concert refreshments were served to the guests and thus ended a most delightful evening.

E. R. W.

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