

that those who suffer from abdominal trouble have ordinarily to be very careful in the regulation of their bowels.

With regard to the bed provided, though prison beds are not usually supposed to be luxurious, our informant makes no complaint. She was, further, grateful to the medical officer for permission to lie down upon it at times during the day. The wardress who was with him at the time this permission was given told her, however, that she had no orders to allow this, which presumably is an instance of the petty tyranny in which officials of a certain type indulge.

Much depends upon the wardresses, who have a great deal in their power, and a change of these officials brought a welcome relief. Nevertheless, owing to an error on the part of the first wardress, our informant, who was entitled to communicate with her solicitor, was informed she could not do so, and so was detained at Holloway several days longer than need have been the case.

The prisoners have the right to complain to the inspector, who visits the prison from time to time. Why should they not bring these points before him? He is accompanied by the Matron on his round of inspection, and when the question is asked, "Any complaints?" it takes more courage than is possessed by most of the poor women who find their way to Holloway to make complaints of official shortcomings before the official who has the complete control of their lives, and metes out their punishments.

Moreover, these are matters which no modest woman, and many of the prisoners are modest women, desires to discuss with a layman.

No one supposes that a prison can ever be a pleasant place to stay in, or that it should be made so. But the broad lines on which prison life is regulated should be hygienic, humanitarian, educative, remedial. In this the trained nurse can do much to help, and we hope that the day is near at hand when she will be introduced into all prisons as an integral part of the general official staff, not alone in the infirmary.

Miss Florence Nightingale has granted a small pension to Miss Emma Fagg, who was one of the nurses who worked under her in the Crimea. Miss Fagg had been an inmate of Minster (Kent) Workhouse for 22 years when her identity became known to Lady Rose Weigall, who has interested herself in her welfare.

International News.

Nosokomos, the Dutch Nurses' Association, numbering 700 nurses, has sent a petition to the Government asking for the State Examination of Nurses, and State Control of Training School for Nurses. The reasons advanced by the nurses in this plea for state supervision are much the same as those which are being put forward by British Nurses. The Dutch Nurses' Association has the sympathy and support of many physicians.

The many warm friends made by Nosokomos at the Paris Conference through its representative, Miss J. C. van Lanschot-Hubrecht, will heartily wish success to the Dutch Nurses in their efforts to secure a recognised status for their profession, and will accord them that sympathy which Miss van Lanschot-Hubrecht writes is "such a real help to us."

An Honourable Record.

Miss Lucy Walker, who recently resigned after having served twelve years as Superintendent of Nurses and Matron of the Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa., U.S.A., is a graduate of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, England. Her three years' course proved a hard struggle, for diphtheria and other illnesses prostrated her at intervals, and she emerged, an example of a valuable nurse saved by her own pluck and her Superintendent's wisdom to benefit her profession.

In 1892 Miss Walker visited relatives in Philadelphia. There she took charge of the training school for nurses of the Presbyterian Hospital, and displayed her remarkable ability for executive work with telling result for three years. In 1895 she went to the Pennsylvania Hospital as Superintendent of Nurses and Matron, and for twelve years the institution was proud to have her as head of its nursing and domestic force. Her talents for reorganising, directing, and teaching were exercised in every department. From the methods of sewing-room and linen-room upwards, all departments demonstrate the benefit of the thought she gave to developing the best ways of accomplishing hospital work.

Miss Walker has now undertaken the guardianship of a motherless girl cousin in Pittsburg, Pa. Her love for and interest in young women should make this task a pleasant one, but her friends in the nursing world sincerely hope that she has not definitely retired from hospital work, for which her peculiar genius most admirably fits her.

E.A.P.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)