

form any idea of the patience, kindness, and humility with which she discharged the duties of her noble calling. That such pure and valuable lives should have to be sacrificed is a cruel hardship, for the world can ill afford to lose its heroines and heroes; but if their lives must be short I think the world ought to see that they are made as bright as possible. This, I am afraid, has not been done, as far as our local Institution is concerned, and it is open to doubt whether some at least of the deaths that have occurred are not traceable to causes within the power of the Hospital Committee to remedy.

It is obvious that if the Nurses were to take the full precautions necessary for their own safety they could not perform the quantity of work required of them, which is very great, necessitating their almost constant presence in the Ward. I have no hesitation in saying that the Staff is utterly insufficient, and in the case of delirious patients the physical and mental strain involved is sufficient to seriously affect the health of the Nurses and render them more susceptible to the poison they are compelled to breathe. Surely those in authority will not shut their eyes to these lamentable occurrences. A Nurse's life ought to be of as much account as a patient's. It is to be hoped that the conditions under which they live will be so far modified as not to deter others from following so dangerous an occupation in future. The citizens of Liverpool ought to show by their appreciation of those heroic women that they are not wholly unworthy of such acts of self-sacrifice.—Yours, &c., AN EX-PATIENT.

The weak point of the above letter is its anonymity. I think, if I lived in Liverpool, or any other town where such a state of things existed, I should not shrink from signing my name in full, and demanding an inquiry. Another letter, equally strong and to the point, on the same subject, is addressed to the Editor of the *Liverpool Courier*, with the signature of "Fair Play."

THE Secretary of the British Nurses' Association asks me to state that she would like to thank her numerous correspondents who have taken the opportunity, whilst remitting their subscriptions, to wish her all good wishes for the New Year, and who have also expressed so much gratitude for the work which the B.N.A. is doing for them. The Secretary also is much pleased by their expressions of gratification with the annual report. It has been physically impossible for the Secretary to reply personally to all her friends and good wishers.

THOSE somewhat erratic people, the Post Office officials, have, Mr. Editor informs me, been charging over postage upon the *Nursing Record*, which, being duly registered as a newspaper, is very properly only liable to ordinary newspaper postal charge. The Editor will feel greatly obliged if any one and all who may have suffered in this way will kindly communicate with him, giving the dates and the amount of the over charge, with a view of getting it refunded.

MR. PETER REID, who has just given through Sir W. S. Savory, Bart.—who, as my readers are aware, is one of the vice-presidents of the B.N.A.

—and Mr. Cross the handsome sum of £100,000 for the purpose of founding and endowing a Convalescent Home, has performed the noblest and highest possible act of generosity, well worthy of imitation among our many wealthy country men and women.

THERE appears to be trouble ahead again in the neighbourhood of Folkestone—to wit, with the Elham Board of Guardians and the Nurses of the Union. It was reported that the Head Nurse (Miss Little) had tendered her resignation. The Chairman said the Nursing Institution would supply an Assistant Nurse in the place of the present one in February. Councillor Vaughan moved, and Alderman Pledge seconded, that a Nurse and an Assistant Nurse be advertised for. As an amendment, General Gwyn proposed that they apply to the Institution for another Nurse. Nurse Little was leaving on her own account, and there must be some reason at the Home why the Nurses would not stay. It was most essential that they should have Trained Nurses. Mr. Hogen seconded, and it was carried. It would not be half a bad plan if General Gwyn or someone else would look closely into matters, and see *what is the reason the Nurses do not stay.*

I LIKE the "tone" of the following, which is supplied by our bright contemporary, the *Newcastle Leader*:—"There is some real heroism left in the world yet, whatever may be the world's appreciation of it. Reference was made a day or two ago to a lady about to start from London as Nurse for the leper colony at Molokai. Being desirous of ascertaining the name of the heroine who had thus elected to consign herself to a life-martyrdom, and probably to a dreadful death, a London correspondent communicated with the vicar of the metropolitan parish in connection with whose local mission the lady is going out for further information. The reply was, that 'the Nurse who is going out to the lepers in Molokai wishes to be unknown.'" Self-abnegation is, I regret to say, a characteristic very conspicuous by its absence nowadays, and is, I greatly fear, growing more so every day.

MR. BUTTERWORTH, who so very handsomely gave the nineteen medals to the Nurses and Sisters of Guy's Hospital who have been five years and upwards in that Institution, has, I hear, made provision for the gift to become permanent—a very liberal gift, which cannot fail to be appreciated.

THE Coventry District Nursing Association recently held its annual meeting, and I am sorry to learn that, on the statement of Dr. Milner Moore,

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