

The popularity, or the reverse of the District Nurses' Home in Dundee is receiving much prominence in the local press at the present time. The tone of some of the letters may be judged by that of one writer, who says that "Nurses are like nuns, and should not speak about their grievances to the outside world. They ought to bow to all authority, however wielded, and give implicit obedience to whatever order is given them, right or wrong, trusting blindly in the wisdom of those placed in power over them. . . . Let the various writers cease from stirring up strife on the strength of gossip. It costs nothing writing to the papers, and only harasses the Directors—an excellent body of gentlemen who will see that authority is upheld at all costs."

The pith of the letter is to be found in the last line—"an excellent body of gentlemen." If the Directors of this essentially women's work included women amongst their number it is probable that they would know how to uphold authority, and at the same time to retain the services of the nurses.

A somewhat alarming fire occurred in the chapel at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, on Sunday last during the afternoon service. The congregation, consisting of doctors, nurses, and patients, was at once dismissed, and it was found that flames were coming from behind a steam radiator. The patients in two medical wards close to the chapel, numbering about 40, were promptly removed to another part of the building, without any mishap, and the Glasgow Fire Brigade, which soon arrived on the scene, succeeded in extinguishing the fire.

Writing in the *Sphere* on the British Hospital in Paris, Lady Lawson says:—"All English visitors to Paris should know what to do in case of accident, and yet it is astonishing how few people are aware of the existence of the British Hospital just outside the fortifications at Lavallois-Perret, near Neuilly. If the victim of a cab accident is in a state of collapse and unable to direct the *cocher* he will assuredly be sent to the nearest French hospital in that particular arrondissement by the *agent de ville* who is on duty; and woe betide the victim who undergoes the horror of this experience. Many of the public hospitals in Paris are a blot on the nation, especially since the expulsion of the *religieuses*. The writer speaks feelingly on this subject, having had the misfortune to be in a cab accident at the Gare du Nord in which the *fiacre* was overturned and she and her baggage were smashed up completely. For four days she lay with a broken leg (fractured in three places) in a French hos-

pital until she was moved to the Hôpital Anglais, and during this time no attempt was made to set the limb, nor did she receive any care from the ignorant country girls who have replaced the "sisters" as nurses. The result of this neglect was an illness of twelve months, involving two operations, and several distinguished French friends urged her to inform the Directeur de l'Assistance Publique, who, as they expressed it, would be *chagriné* when he learnt the facts. By the way, a claim for damages must be made within twenty-four hours after an accident."

The reorganisation of the nursing to meet modern requirements is a stupendous undertaking in Catholic countries, where, until recently, nursing the sick has been a religious duty, and not a skilled profession. Great efforts are now being made in France, and with the natural intelligence of the average Frenchwoman a very great evolution in nursing is already taking place, in which English nurses are taking the most sympathetic interest.

The visitors to the International Nursing Congress in Paris, who were the guests of Mrs. Edmond Kelly, at the delightful picnic given by her at St. Germain, will desire to offer her their heartiest congratulations on the birth of her little son and heir (Edmond Kelly, jun.), at 175, Second Avenue, New York, on Dec. 15th.

At the time of the Congress Mr. Kelly was Counsel of the American Embassy, and his wife, who is a trained nurse, identified herself with the Congress in a most sympathetic and hospitable way, which was the more appreciated as nurses in an influential social position, when married, do not always maintain their interest in their profession.

Sir Rennell Rodd, the British Ambassador in Rome, has forwarded to the Lord Mayor a memorandum on the organisation of relief in connection with the earthquake in Italy. He states that the task has been one of enormous magnitude, it being the greatest sudden emergency of this kind ever known, everything having to be created from chaos or brought from outside. It was safe to say that every organisation and every individual, Italian and foreign, did all that man could do in that direction. There is a vast number of wounded in the hospitals of Rome, Naples, Palermo, Syracuse, and other cities, together with a large number of refugees, who are being fed, clothed, and cared for as well as possible through the instrumentality of public and private charity.

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