

the firm's capacity to the supply of afternoon tea and cakes.

We hear on good authority, and we hope it is true, that the nurses at the London Hospital are rejoicing that the suggestion has been adopted in that institution to the great advantage of the commissariat department, that better cooked and more appetising food is now the order of the day, hot rolls even being served at breakfast, and that the improvement in the *menu* is accompanied by a considerable saving of expense. We commend the suggestion to employ an expert caterer to the consideration of committees of large hospitals as worthy of adoption. Appetising food is more than half the battle in maintaining a healthy nursing staff, and catering, like nursing, should be in the hands of experts, not amateurs.

The Matron of the London Hospital has issued her annual letter to nurses past and present. Several copies have been sent to us for review, inviting our consideration of the paragraphs which are considered misleading, alluding to the appointment of Miss Macintosh as Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. We must defer consideration of the letter until our next issue, as it is necessary to give precedence to more important matters.

A flow of snobbish paragraphs have appeared during the week in the daily press because an Earl's daughter has entered a London hospital for training as a nurse. Let us hope she will conclude the term without further comment, as no doubt she desires to do. With few exceptions the ladies of title who have entered hospitals have spent but a few weeks there, but we call to mind two fine exceptions—the Lady Hermione Blackwood and the Hon. Albinia Brodrick—both of whom have shown real grit, and continue to take the deepest and most intelligent interest in the progress of the profession they adorn. The more women possessing their culture and talents who become professional nurses the better. Refinement and a liberal education are invaluable assets for those desirous of keeping nursing in the front rank of women's work.

We are glad to learn that Miss Edith Corbett, a member of the nursing staff of the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, who was brutally attacked and stabbed by an unknown man while walking with a friend along the Ashfield Road, King's Heath, is progressing favourably. Miss Corbett, who was nursing a

patient at King's Heath, was vigorously defended by her friend, Miss Townley, when attacked, who belaboured the unknown assailant with her umbrella to such purpose that he took to his heels.

The report of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses, Scottish Branch, states that there are now 350 Queen's Nurses working under 220 nursing associations affiliated to the Scottish Branch of the Institute. The Scottish Council are directly responsible for the five Queen's Nurses and twenty-one Queen's candidates who are at present undergoing special training in district nursing. During the period reported on, nine nurses completed the six months' special training, and were engaged by committees of affiliated associations at Montrose, Buckie, Fair Isle, Appin, Gourrock, Tollcross (Glasgow), Strachur, Morar and Knoydart, and Kinlochleven. Two new associations were formed at Morar and Knoydart and Kinlochleven, the latter under the Argyll County Nursing Association. The inspectors made ninety-three visits to nurses in local branches, and reports were forwarded to the respective local committees. During the three months, 1,835 cases were attended in Edinburgh by nurses from 29, Castle Terrace, involving 36,759 nursing visits.

Prompted by the illness of nurses, the Infirmary Committee of the Bethnal Green Board of Guardians have made exhaustive inquiries with a view to obviating the risks which the nurses run in attending consumptive inmates. No less than 62 per cent. of the nurses (24 out of 39) were off duty during the year on account of illness, while the illness of the out-door staff only amounted to 18 per cent. The Medical Superintendent points out that the tendency in chest hospitals is to restrict admission to mild cases which would profit by open-air treatment. The Workhouse Infirmary, on the other hand, must admit all, no matter what their condition. Statistics are given showing that during the three years ended April 17th, 1906, the number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis admitted to the Infirmary was 777, of which 367 died, or 48.52 per cent. On the other hand, the percentage of deaths at the Victoria Park Hospital was only 6.30, and at Brompton Hospital only 10.61. It is proposed to reorganise the nursing arrangements at Bethnal Green Infirmary, and to appoint 13 more nurses, so that the nurses may have more time off, and not have to take care of both consumptive and non-consumptive patients at the same time. There are many other infirmaries

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