

sion is concerned—that the Army Nursing Service should be made an Imperial corps. This suggestion of Miss Kenealy's appeared in one of her brilliant articles in the *Morning Post*, and was acted upon, although, we believe, without any acknowledgment from the particular ministerial sponge which absorbed the idea. Women are used to having their ideas utilised by those not so liberally endowed, and so long as things get done we have in the past been content to "blush unseen."

Prejudice against a hospital is sad for the sick in the surrounding district, and the authorities of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, cannot too soon conciliate public feeling concerning the rules of post-mortem examinations and out-patient-room operations, of which the poor have an instinctive if ignorant horror. Recently these questions were brought to our notice quite incidentally. In an antique shop in Kensington the proprietress asked our opinion of the hospital, and called up a young woman who was dusting china to repeat her tale of woe. She was highly indignant; having taken a baby to the out-patient department to have an operation on its foot, she said it was handed back to her by the nurse insufficiently dressed and the bandage dripping with blood. To her remonstrance that she could not carry the child through the streets in such a condition she was advised to "inform *John Bull*, for which she would no doubt get five shillings"!

Upon our inquiry why she did not report this very cruel and improper observation to the authorities she replied nothing would induce her to go near the hospital again. "Poor folks is always threatened down; they may be ignorant but they has their feelings." That is just the point—"they has their feelings"—and we are bound to own that in many out-patient departments they might receive more consideration. Much more space should be devoted to cubicles where children who have been operated upon should be kept under observation for a few hours until they have quite recovered from the effects of shock and anæsthetic. No post-mortem examination should be permitted on any child in a hospital, without the *signed* consent of the parents or guardians. This should be the rule in every institution where sick children are received.

The late Lady Victoria Campbell left £700 to the Argyllshire Nursing Association, the capital of which has been increased to £10,517 1s. 4d. It is refreshing to hear of a district

nursing association with capital, as it can thus afford to pay its nurses a just salary. Let us hope Argyllshire sets a good example in this particular.

Dr. Anna Hamilton informs us in connection with the report of the *Maison de Santé Protestante*, Bordeaux, which appeared in this journal on June 3rd, that there is a small mistake as to the expense of management, which is 4 francs 76 centimes for each patient daily, not 476 francs for the expense of the hospital for one day.

The Report of the Commission appointed by H.E. the Governor to inquire into the condition of nurses in Ceylon has been signed and submitted to the Government.

We observe in *Una*, the journal of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, the Editor reminds the members that his task is a great deal more onerous than it need be because he has so little support from the members, and it is often wondered whether the paper is required. He hints that unless the growth of this apathy is checked without delay the social and corporate life of the nurses and their official organ will cease to exist.

Only those concerned in the work of organising nurses realise its difficulties, and as Australia is the only continent in which they have taken no steps to co-operate, through their national organisations, with their colleagues of other nations, it may be assumed that their instinct for corporate life is not very highly developed. At the same time it must be remembered that all the prominent officials of the Associations of Nurses in Australia are medical practitioners—liberal-minded men and competent organisers it is true—but so long as the nurses can depend upon their work being done for them by those with greater experience than they possess, they are unlikely to come forward to undertake it for themselves. Nevertheless it is right and healthy that they should do so, and the kindest thing the medical profession in Australia can do is to leave the nurses to work out their own professional salvation.

A new opening for nurses seems likely to be afforded in connection with the nursing of the sick policy-holders of insurance societies. In Melbourne the Temperance and General Mutual Life Society is making the experiment, and if it is successful it is sure to be extended, as has been the result of a similar experiment.

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