

"THEN, as to the sleeping accommodation. Nurses are packed into rooms in a way of which the public little dreams; no privacy whatever, no comfort, sometimes not even cleanliness. In one London Hospital I simply refused to sleep under the bedding provided for me—it was so horribly dirty. Unfortunately, Probationers will put up with any discomfort and hard work rather than complain, being afraid of dismissal, and so losing the chance of obtaining their certificates. Sitting-rooms for the Nursing Staff are, as a rule, conspicuous by their absence. Now no committee would dream of expecting their Matron, House Surgeon, or even the Housekeeper, to be without one; but for the Nurses, oh, no! they must go out when off duty, or sit in their bedrooms, subject to all sorts of interruptions.

"BEFORE I conclude, let me mention a Liverpool Hospital, where all Sisters and Nurses fared exceedingly well, the food in the dining-rooms being good and well-served, trim parlour-maids to wait on us; always something nice—such as fish, eggs, &c.—for tea, and for supper, meat, cheese, good butter (not the horrible stuff usually found on Hospital tables), and large jugs of hot and cold milk. The Night Nurses there always had a substantial meal before going on duty, and something extra—such as bacon or eggs—provided for the night. There was also a separate sitting-room for the Nursing Staff; but even in that Hospital, where our comfort was so well studied, we were over-worked for lack of sufficient hands to aid when the Ward work was extra heavy. In conclusion, we workers in Hospitals sincerely trust that the 'Inquiry into Public Charities' will see these things remedied."

ONE of my many correspondents has written me asking if I can recommend her some cheap method of staining the floors of a new Home for Patients she has just established. To this I can emphatically say yes, for I have been engaged in the occupation of floor staining myself lately, and very successful and economical the results are. I obtained a gallon and a pint of Messrs. Jackson's (119, High Street, Borough, S.E.) varnish stain (dark oak colour), and prepared my floors (one large and one small room and a wide passage, eight yards in length) by scraping off all stains, &c., with a piece of window glass, then rubbing all unevennesses down with sand-paper fastened on to a wooden block; then two coats of the varnish stain, and there it is complete in every possible way, and well done—as well done as the most experienced professional floor stainer could have done it. To keep the staining bright and polished I use Messrs. Jackson's bee's-wax pre-

paration, which is sold in shilling and larger tins. The whole process has cost me only sixteen shillings, which included the stain, two brushes, and the tin of bee's-wax preparation. To the Superintendents of Institutions I also respectfully suggest my proven satisfactory experience in floor staining. S. G.

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

GLOVES AND WOMEN.

THE above heading does not refer to the multitude of the weaker sex who cover the hands with either kid, calf, silk, or cotton gloves ere "taking their walks abroad," but to the comparatively small section of those who earn a livelihood by helping in the manufacture of these popular articles of apparel. Gloves have always been worn to a certain extent, though not till modern days have they become the people's privilege. Formerly their price, if nothing else, prevented the many from possessing them, but machinery has revolutionised the said price, and cheap gloves abound nowadays, though really good hand-made ones still command their value. Gloves have gone through all manner of stages, and have been made all lengths as well as all sizes. One button, two button, six button, ten button, twenty button—all have had their day. Rumour saith the evolutions of fashion will now return to the primitive one, but methinks not, though it would be vastly convenient in these train-catching days, when another T-commencing word has been added to the old proverbial time and tide await no one's pleasure. Worcester has been the home of the glove-making industry ever since the days when the old Glovers' Company of that ancient borough obtained their charter in 1497. It still keeps up its reputation, for Dent, Allcroft and Co., have an enormous establishment there, where both men and women are employed. The girls earn from ten to twelve shillings per week. Most of the glove sewers, especially those who work by hand, however, take the work to their own homes, assembling once a week to receive the work, and returning it the next week finished. Prices for sewing gloves vary from two shillings and sixpence to six shillings and sixpence a dozen, according to the style and nature of the work. The women can generally sew from one to two dozen pairs during the week; they supply their own needles, but the thread and machines (if used) are lent by the manufacturers. Of course, the machine-sewn work receives the lower rate of payment. The large machines used in the factories are generally worked by steam. Hand

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