

It is impossible to estimate the benefits which would result to the nursing profession, were similar organization introduced, both in professional efficiency and prestige, and those who oppose the organization and registration of nurses cannot escape responsibility for the deplorable boycotting of nursing as a profession by many who when trained would be most desirable members, and the low estimation in which it is held by many members of the public owing to their unsatisfactory experiences with spurious nurses.

The annual inspection of the Voluntary Aid Detachments of the Leicester Territorial Association took place recently in the Victoria Park in the presence of a large number of spectators. The Public Hall was transformed into a temporary hospital.

The nurses and ambulance men formed up and were reviewed by Surgeon-General W. W. Kenney, who was accompanied by several of the chief officers. Altogether there were on parade about 150 of all ranks, including commandants, medical officers, quarter-masters, pharmacists, section leaders, and the rank and file. Afterwards the detachments were dismissed, the nurses to take up their duties in the hospital, which was in charge of Miss Noble (Lady Superintendent of the 2nd Detachment), and the men to attend to the wounded on the field.

Mr. W. M. Dunning contributes a delightful article on "Mediæval Hospitals" to the *Bristol Times* in which he relates that "in the records of various guest-houses reference is occasionally made to the employment of women, but their sphere was rigidly confined to work by the bedside and household duties. At Bridgewater it is somewhat snobbishly recorded that "women, not of gentle birth, but still fit for the purpose," assisted in nursing. They lodged in a chamber adjoining the infirmary, and were to be "always careful and ready both by night and day to help the sick and to minister to them in all things." Sometimes a "visitor" arrived unexpectedly to investigate, and see if "any inmate happened to lie in any sheetes unwashed that any other lay in before," and to ascertain the number and condition of the feather beds. A lady, corresponding to the matron of to-day, was in authority at Heytesbury. She seems to have been an ideal occupant of the post—"of good name and fame, quiet and honest, no brawler or chider, and glad to please every inmate to her power"—and one who would carry out the foundress's wish to the letter, viz., that "this House of

God on Earth may be a preparation for the eternal House of God above."

At a recent meeting of the South Molton Board of Guardians Nurse Wilson wrote resigning her appointment, and asked that, as she was not given the opportunity of seeing the Workhouse and her apartments prior to entering on her duties, the Guardians should allow her her travelling expenses at least one way. Had she seen her apartments she would not have taken the position, as her bedroom was used for cooking in and keeping the utensils in, as well as a general storeroom. She had no apartments as were advertised. Her resignation was accepted, but no travelling expenses were allowed. It was also decided that as the Guardians find difficulty in obtaining certificated nurses, the matron should act as superintendent nurse, she being certificated, and that they advertise for an uncertificated nurse at £20 a year, with uniform and apartments in the Workhouse.

We hope the Local Government Board will not permit such an arrangement—as a Matron has no time to act practically as a Superintendent Nurse—and the scheme means leaving the sick poor to the tender mercies of the untrained.

During a recent visit to Lossiemouth at the entrance to the beautiful Moray Firth—we noticed that the snobbish custom of dressing nursery maids in trained nurses' uniform was quite in vogue. What could be more unsuitable? As there was always an invigorating breeze off the North Sea, these unfortunate women, were for ever battling with flopping cloaks—and flying veils. One middle aged and very important person was daily in charge of chubby twins, fortunately of an age to be kept in a pram. She appeared in full canonicals—including blue linen gown, and cap and apron—and was highly offended when asked, with what disease her charges were afflicted?

A more senseless costume for seaside wear could not well be designed. It is a pity the silly mothers were not condemned to suffer from its discomfort—instead of wearing as they did, natty golfing costumes, warm and woolly.

At the annual meeting of the District Nursing Society at Comber, near Belfast, held at Ardara the residence of the Right Honble. Thomas Andrews D.L., Mrs. Andrews presided in the unavoidable absence of Lady Londonderry. The annual report presented by Mrs. Herbert W. Andrews stated that during the year Nurse Finlay had attended 207 cases,

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