

very probably will be disgusted with the whole thing before their month's trial is over, and wisely return to their homes, saving themselves a miserable and discontented Probationership, and saving their superiors the unpleasantness of half-hearted and luke-warm subordinates, where the most hearty and warm affection for their work and surroundings is necessary.

The Wardmaids should come on duty at seven in the morning, and should first of all clean the fireplaces in the Wards, and then in the Ward kitchens, and sweep the kitchens; then wash out the lavatories, and put things straight there—carrying away all soiled clothes, which have previously been counted and put together by the Sister, and taking them to the laundry. It will probably then be time for the stores to be given out by the Matron, and each Wardmaid must take the list of the stores required for the Wards she works in, and will receive the quantity of bread, milk, beef tea, soup, tea, sugar and butter, which she is entitled to, and which with the exception of the milk will last the twenty-four hours. Besides the scrubbing of the Wards, lavatories and kitchens, the three Wardmaids must divide the work of sweeping, dusting, and scrubbing the stairs, corridors, halls, out-patient, casualty, committee and dining rooms. Except the lavatories, which ought to be scrubbed daily, twice a week will probably be sufficient to scrub the other parts of the Hospital. The Sisters' rooms will be kept in order, and their breakfasts and teas prepared, by their Wardmaids. The washing up after the patients' meals should be done by the Wardmaids, and when one is off duty, another must wash up and tidy the fireplaces for her. Twice a week each Wardmaid should be off duty from four to nine; and on Sundays time should be given them to attend either morning or evening service. The hours on duty for Wardmaids should be from seven in the morning till eight or half-past eight at night, and half an hour for each meal.

The Cook is, without doubt, one of the most important officers of a Hospital. Mr. Punch, in answer to the question, "Is life worth living?" replied that it depends upon your digestion. Mr. Punch is quite right. No dyspeptic was ever yet satisfied with life, but to keep your digestion in good order you must have your food properly cooked, and so a good cook is essential to make life worth living. The cook's first duty then is to be able to cook well. She should especially be able to make good beef teas and soups. Her hours should not be too long, for cooking is hard and tiring work. The Kitchen-maid should prepare the servants' breakfast, and have the kitchen clean and tidy by half-past seven, which is early enough for the cook to commence work.

After preparing breakfast for the Matron and House Surgeon, the morning will be fully occupied with getting ready the various dinners for Nurses, patients and servants, and making beef-tea, &c. The Matron and House Surgeon would probably dine in the evening, so that a second dinner would need to be prepared for them, and also for the Night Nurses. The meat for the morning's breakfasts should be prepared the day before, and, except the cooking, the suppers can be all prepared in the earlier part of the day.

The Kitchenmaid should prepare the vegetables, clean the pans, sculleries, pantries, and kitchens, and help the cook to wash up the dinner and supper things used by the Nurses and servants. After the Matron's and House Surgeon's dinner has been dished, either the cook or the kitchenmaid should be at liberty to go for the rest of the evening, one going out one evening, the other the next.

The housemaid should attend to the laying of the meals for the Matron, House Surgeon, and Nurses, and wash up all except the Nurses' dinner and supper things. She will also be responsible for the cleanliness of the sitting rooms and bedrooms of the Matron, House Surgeon, and Nurses, all of which should be thoroughly cleaned once every week. When she is off duty, which should be every other night, from half-past six, or when the House Surgeon's and Matron's dinner is over, one of the Wardmaids should do her work for her. The laundry maids' hours should be from seven in the morning till five in the evening, and all day off on Sundays.

The porter's duties are manifold. He must clean the boots, attend to the door, carry up coals to the various parts of the house, help to carry up the patients to the Wards, and do any odd jobs about the place that may be required. Whenever he is away one of the Nurses must answer the door bell. In an emergency when a male patient is very delirious and unmanageable the porter should be prepared to sit up at night; but in that case assistance must be obtained so that he may have a proper rest in the day. In an ordinary way he should come on duty at seven in the morning, and go off at six at night.

The following rules should be strictly observed:—

- (1) That all Nurses and female servants be under the sole authority of the Matron.
- (2) That the Porter be under the authority of the House Surgeon.
- (3) That all complaints be made to the Matron.
- (4) That no one be on duty on any occasion for more than twelve hours.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)