

referred to before, busy in company with English domestics, attending to various culinary matters.

The wards have been coloured a delicate shade of green, very restful to the eyes. Some of them are furnished with the high American beds, while others still retain the British variety. One ward is entirely devoted to fractures, and here the surgeons were at work attending to their patients. Everywhere we noticed homely comfort and the absence of red tape and pomposity. Matron and staff and patients were entirely at their ease with one another. We were pleased to notice that the men were allowed to smoke in the wards, and so alleviate the tedium of their position. The contagious cases are nursed in cubicle wards, which plan appears to economise the nursing power. At present wards of forty beds are staffed by four nurses, but the Matron does not anticipate that the staff will be increased as the number of patients grow, so that the proportion of patients per nurse will be gradually increased. As there are no untrained women in the American Red Cross system, the trained nurses can entirely concentrate on their patients, and the result must be that more efficient work can be done in less time than where they have to be constantly supervising and undoing the work of the unlearned and ignorant. Would that this were the case in *all* Military hospitals. One could not be long in Miss Beecroft's company without realising that any work she had in hand would spell efficiency.

H. H.

THE MEDICAL TREATMENT OF DISABLED MEN.

Mr. John Hodge, Minister of Pensions, is hoping to introduce on the first day of the autumn session a Bill to give the Ministry of Pensions greater powers. One scheme he has in view is to enforce a certain degree of medical treatment on discharged and disabled men. Thousands of discharged men do not accept treatment—which is bad for themselves and for the nation. He considers they should only be discharged when the medical profession has done everything possible to restore them to their old condition.

Opening an exhibition showing the methods of treating disabled men at Birmingham on Monday, Mr. Hodge said he wanted to give every man who needed it a spare limb, so that he would have it to fall back upon when the first one was being repaired.

THE QUEEN'S HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, HACKNEY ROAD.

A letter in the press by the Bishop of London, drawing attention to the closing of two wards (twenty-four beds) at the Queen's Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, owing to the lack of probationers, and a paragraph in the press on the same subject, have resulted in applications for probationers' posts.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD., AND THE EXAMINATION OF NURSES.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses the following circular letter was addressed to the Secretaries of the principal nurse-training schools in the United Kingdom early in May last:

DEAR SIR,—Considerable apprehension is felt by nurses who have not yet qualified for their certificates in London and other training schools, at the rumour that in future their examination will be conducted by the College of Nursing, Ltd.—a Limited Liability Company which claims disciplinary powers over its nurse-members, and to the autocratic constitution of which many trained nurses take very strong exception—and not by their own training schools, or by a Statutory Authority set up by Act of Parliament.

My Committee would be obliged if you would, at your earliest convenience, inform me whether this rumour is correct, in so far as it applies to the probationers at ———.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

MARGARET BREAY,

Hon. Secretary.

Replies have been received as follows:—

MR. THOMAS HAYES, St. Bartholomew's Hospital:—

"I have your enquiry of the 4th inst. and can only say that I have no knowledge of the rumour to which you refer.

"The training of Probationers here is, as it always has been, under the direction of the Governors of the Hospital, and the examinations for certificates will continue as hitherto to be conducted by the officially appointed 'Instructors of Probationary Nurses,' and the Matron."

MR. G. Q. ROBERTS, St. Thomas' Hospital:—

"The question you raise has not been considered by the Governors, but I venture to think that whatever the 'one portal' may be, there is no doubt that just as the students of our great Universities are able to take a University degree, in addition to their Conjoint Qualifications, so it will be perfectly consistent for nurses to qualify at the College of Nursing, and to hold the Nightingale Certificate which will be jealously guarded for the benefit of all probationers trained in the standard required to gain it."

There can be no analogy between an examination instituted by a Limited Liability Company which claims disciplinary powers over its nurse-members, and which is prohibited by its own constitution from conferring diplomas, and the honourable degree conferred by a great University. Were an examination leading to a degree inaugurated by a University the position would be entirely different.

SIR COOPER PERRY, Guy's Hospital:—

"I am directed by the House Committee to inform you that no proposals have been hitherto made either by Guy's Hospital to the College of Nursing, or by the College of Nursing to Guy's Hospital, for the holding of Nursing Examinations."

MISS M. HEATHER-BIGG, R.R.C., Charing Cross Hospital:—

"Our Secretary has given me your letter of May 9th. So far we have not been approached by

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