

nursing by women in the interests of the patients."

We are not opposed to male attendants for certain cases—they are necessary; but for the care and cure of diseases of the brain the trained woman's touch is necessary—and very specially fine women at that.

A sum of £1,250 damages was awarded in the King's Bench Division to Miss Ethel Spicer, a nurse, of 8, Borkall Road, Catford, for personal injuries caused through being run down by a Ford motor van driven by Miss Violet Isabella Hood, a Royal Air Force driver.

It was stated the accident could not have been avoided, and the driver herself was rendered unconscious.

With every circumstance of honour the Edith Cavell Memorial in St. Martin's Place, W.C., was unveiled by Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, on Wednesday, March 17th. Amongst those present were General Dr. Maurice Finck, Mlle. De Meyer, Matron, and Nurse Andry, delegates from the Edith Cavell Nursing School at Brussels. A cord attached to the Union Jack and the Belgian Colours veiling the statue was handed to Queen Alexandra by the sculptor, Sir George Frampton, R.A., and simultaneously Miss Monk, Matron of the London Hospital, and Miss Beadsmore Smith, Matron-in-Chief Q.A.I.M.N.S., pulled cords on either side, the flags fell away, and the figure of Edith Cavell stood revealed.

SCOTTISH NURSING NOTES.

Miss Maude MacCallum will speak at a Mass Meeting, convened by the Professional Union of Trained Nurses, on Friday, 19th March, at the Scottish Nurses' Club, 205, Bath Street, Glasgow, where a very successful Meeting was recently held, to place the principles of Trade-Unionism before trained nurses.

A correspondent writes:—A good deal of feeling has been aroused amongst nurses in Edinburgh, who think the new Club should, like that at Glasgow, be free to all trained nurses. The application for rooms is answered by a request to the applicant to join the College of Nursing, Ltd., together with an application form, which may or may not be accompanied by particulars of the accommodation required. If the "fish" is not landed at the first throw, another letter will be sent about the accommodation, with a reminder "that it is cheaper if you are a College member."

It is interesting to learn that during the recent Argyllshire election nursing questions cropped up, and several nurses took an intelligent interest in it. Councillor Rosslyn Mitchell criticised severely the attempt made by a medical member of Parliament to have semi-trained women registered, during the discussion of the Nurses' Bills in the Commons, for work in outlying country districts in the Highlands and Islands. He claimed rightly that in such districts, where the doctors are few and far between, the nurses should be highly trained women, with accurate theoretical knowledge, able to act in cases of emergency and difficulty, and this village nurses with a few months' experience were not able to do, and that the only reason for supplying the poor with semi-trained women was that they were *cheaper*.

The question of the 48-hours Bill as it affects nurses was discussed at another meeting between a trained nurse and the speaker, Miss King; incidentally the latter also referred to V.A.D.'s, who she thought "had been very hardly dealt with." Miss King was also of the opinion that "V.A.D.'s could be of great assistance to the District Nurse." In reply to the question, "In what way?" she said, "In making beds." This gave the trained nurse an excellent opening on the importance of trained observation of the patient while making the bed, and the toilet. This nurse sends us the following observations, with which we agree. She writes:—

"A nurse's work is not only carrying out doctors' orders, but it is *preventative*. We cannot treat our patients (nervous or not nervous) like a piece of Dresden china, or piece of carving, and examine any part just when we feel like it; and but for the opportunities bed making gives us, especially in the district, of a bold glance and touch here, and a surreptitious glance there, marks from internal or external causes, position in bed, especially of the lower limbs, in movements or lack of movements, and, most important of all, pitting of the feet or ankles, might remain unobserved. Why, my last patient, a private one, was a case in point. Very slight swelling appeared in the back of the ankles; medicine was changed, and my instructions from the doctor were that the condition of the patient's feet and ankles was to be my barometer in administering the medicine. Naturally I took a deeper interest in the comfort and tidiness of the lower part of the bed, and this is one of the opportunities the V.A.D. is to take from us! But for these opportunities in the district many symptoms would never be noticed in their earliest stages, and I for one would rather give up my district than submit to this 'help' from a V.A.D."

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