

HATS!

Hats! In presenting an agreeable appearance do we not all realise that a hat may make all the difference? Anyway, it became a sort of tradition that when we pioneer registrationists were out to conquer and also to celebrate great nursing occasions, a new and, if possible, becoming hat we must have. We all did it, and great fun was the result.

In these hard times of costly clothes the selection of a new hat is a matter of considerable anxiety. Winter is passing and the penetrating spring light will soon be with us—the light which searches out without the slightest sympathy spots and creases, and points an accusing ray at one's long-suffering headgear. Alas! an excuse must be found for replacing last year's hat, and we gladly recognised that the laying of the foundation stone of the new Nurses' Home at Bart.'s was a splendid excuse for choosing a new one. We peeped into millinery shops and beheld numerous monstrosities, we asked prices at fashionable emporiums, and in one instance were told 29 guineas was the price for a bit of straw and a blue feather! We remarked in dulcet tones, "I presume some poor fool will pay it!" and then we made tracks for Mills (from Emelie), No. 296, Regent Street, W., and there were shown with patience and courtesy an embarrassing selection of hats—one more becoming than the other. Just lovely! And at prices within a nurse's moderate income. In one, composed of pink roses and blue aerophane grapes, we saw ourselves competing with Queen Mary's exquisite floral toques, at Bart's on the 17th. In another of shot blue taffeta with mauve and blue gold backed flowers, we fancied ourselves addressing crowded halls of nurses, all anxiety to fathom the *raison d'être* of Registration Rules! Again—but why pursue the theme? A large box contained the spoil when delivered the following day, and we advise those of our readers who feel a twinge of envy to hurry off to Madame Mills before she disposes of the *crème de la crème* of her spring show.

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN AND TRAINING SCHEME.

Following the recent conference of women of the professional classes, the Minister of Labour has agreed to the appointment to the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment of Dr. Louisa Garrett Anderson, Miss Isabel Drummond (headmistress, Frances Mary Buss School), and Miss Lena Ashwell. They are not chosen to represent the particular professions to which they belong, but women generally who are working in professions.

Nurses, as usual, are left out. We wonder how doctors, teachers and actresses would like to be represented by nurses!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

A Hospital Patient.—"There is no doubt that the day has gone by for voluntary hospitals containing hundreds of free beds—the cost of maintenance is far too high. Again, if the majority of patients are to pay according to their means the system of nursing will have to be modified, as many of the beds will be occupied by persons used to a certain amount of privacy, who will naturally be more exacting than those who come from rougher surroundings and who were more ignorant of what nursing should entail. For instance, noise must be systematically modified—it never seems to cease in a hospital ward or corridor. Windows and lights must be shaded during the night. More screens must be provided, so that one's wounds are not exposed to the curiosity of one's neighbours, and certain functions not performed in public. Then a trained nurse should always be on duty in the ward, and young probationers placed under trained direction, instead of being as they now often are, left in charge of serious cases on Sisters' and Staff Nurses' whole days and half-days off. In fact the present rush and turmoil (V.A.D.s' style) will certainly have to be modified. The everlasting tip-taps of high heels and general lack of repose is very trying, and all the chatter and clatter, beginning as it often does at 5 a.m., certainly is not necessary. Neither does an educated woman of fifty care to be known by a number, and generally advised by a chit of nineteen, with no social experience whatever and occasionally tickled or smacked on the buttock by way of a joke. I am not grumbling, but just hinting that the paying patient will require certain amenities which apparently have not always been included in the 'voluntary' régime."

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

February 26th.—Mention diseases which are frequently conveyed by (a) milk; (b) water. Suggest any precautions which can be taken to prevent such infection.

March 5th.—What is the cause of scabies? Describe the symptoms. How may it be treated?

March 12th.—In what ways may infection take place in the parturient and puerperal woman? How can a nurse or midwife help to prevent sepsis? What is her duty when it occurs?

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