

Notes by the Wayside.

BY OUR PERIPATETIC CORRESPONDENT.

ONE day last week, in passing down Goodge Street, which my readers no doubt know very well as a place famous for its costermonger wares, my whole system received a terrible shock, and each nerve quivered with professional indignation as I beheld a Nurse in full Hospital outdoor uniform standing behind a street stall loudly calling out to the passers-by to inspect her cabbages and cress. She vaunted her wares, and challenged the public to produce any that were so fine and cheap as hers; and, moreover, she was doing it all so earnestly and with so much of an air of being well used to the business that I thought my eyesight must have played me false, or that I was in a waking dream. After much pinching and sticking of sundry pins into my arms so as to assure myself that I was not suddenly acting the part of a somnambulist, I drew nearer and nearer to inspect, and, on a closer view, I solved the puzzling mystery. She was used to the business, and she was *not* a Nurse; but someone, I suppose out of charity, had presented her with a full Hospital uniform, which she jauntily wore, even down to the deep regulation collar. As I walked

along towards the Middlesex Hospital I turned the matter over in my mind, and came to the conclusion that a Nurse's uniform should no more be given away than that of a soldier. No officer would give away his regimentals under any consideration, and I have an idea that a civilian wearing a soldier's dress would be fined. And it ought to be the same with a Hospital dress. A great deal of harm might be done, not only to the dignity of the Nursing profession, but to the public at large, by the indiscriminate giving away of a Nurse's cast-off uniform. Anybody who passed along Goodge Street on that particular day—and the woman may be there still, for all I know—might easily have thought that she was a Nurse who was "down on her luck," and had been obliged to adopt the profession of cabbage selling in the streets! Few who were not particularly interested would have taken the trouble to investigate the matter, and so might have gone their way with a very strange ideal of Nurses as a body.

MASSAGE has recently been thought of as a suitable occupation for the blind, and the few who have already been trained are said to be very successful. There seems to be a wonderful sensitiveness developed in the hands of the blind,

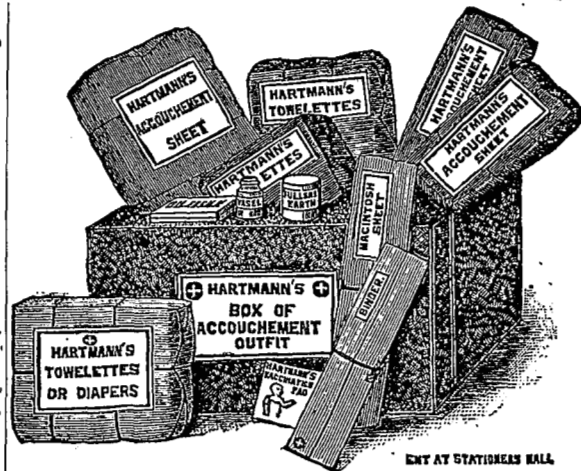
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