

*Patient*: I think perhaps if I could have another pillow—

*Night Sister*: Another pillow? Oh, I don't think we want another pillow, do we? Suppose I were to bring you another blanket, now...? She very kindly brings another blanket, which is thrown off the patient directly she leaves the room, and no more is heard of her until 5.30 a.m., when the patient has just dropped off into a doze, and she suddenly reappears in order to ask, very brightly indeed, "Now, what about a nice cup of tea?"

Or take this:

*A Sympathetic Visitor to the Appendix in No. 6.*

"So I felt that I must come round at once, directly I heard you were to be *done* to-morrow, because I know what agony it is directly afterwards, and one can't talk or anything, naturally. I shall never forget poor dear Flossie—you remember she died just the other day? though I daresay that hadn't *really* anything to do with the operation. I went to see her nearly a week after she'd been operated on, and I shall never forget what she looked like—pale mauve, darling, I assure you—and the *whole* of her hair had fallen out. Literally it came out in chunks. She used to find it on the pillow in the mornings. Of course, I daresay the rest may do you good, once the worst is over. You look so pale and tired, dear; I almost feel I oughtn't to have come, except that I did so want to cheer you up a little before the great ordeal..."

Many nurses will recognise this inveterate ghoul.

From an extremely interesting Address recently delivered by Miss D. Chadwick, Matron, Women's and Children's Hospital, Madras, at a meeting of the Madras Branch of the T.N.A.I., we are enlightened on details of the Delhi Conference held last November. A simple and impressive service was held in the old garrison church, St. James', and in asking for God's blessing on the Nurses' work, the Rev. C. Robinson reminded those present of the sacred side of our profession. That nursing is God's own work, and demands the best we can give, and should always be kept fresh in the minds of our student nurses, so that the "lamp," our emblem, may be kept alight.

Miss Chadwick stated:—

"The Nurses and Midwives Provincial Registration Bills make the office-bearers of the T.N.A.I. feel that they are up against a stone wall. Our aim and object is to obtain an 'All-India Registration Act' but we were told years ago by the Government of India that we could not get that until we got All-India Provincial Acts passed and working. Only then could an 'All-India Bill' be thought of. Up to now the only provinces with Registration Acts are Madras, the Punjab and Burma. Bengal has had an Act drafted since 1922. That has recently been replaced by a new draft but though 10 years have passed, it has not yet been submitted to Government. Bombay, I believe, has an Act drafted but it is unsatisfactory, and, if passed, will not gain for Bombay that reciprocity with Great Britain which is absolutely essential. I feel that in India the nursing profession works definitely under the medical profession, and that we shall not make the necessary headway until we free ourselves. By this it is not my intention to make

any attempt to sever ourselves from the medical profession, but I cannot help thinking that if each province had a 'Directress of Nursing,' who would work in conjunction with, but not under, the Surgeon-General, and who would have power to approach the Local Government on all nursing matters, we should be able to make considerable headway. I believe that our hospitals, nurses, and the country generally would benefit. I have no wish to belittle the work and efforts of those able and capable members of the Government Medical Departments who work for us, but I do feel that Nurses' work should be controlled by Nurses who understand the work, who are in sympathy with it, and who have climbed every rung of the ladder."

Miss Chadwick and the office-bearers of the T.N.A.I. have the sympathy of all good registrationists.

Miss Mary Beard, of the Rockefeller Foundation, U.S.A., and who was granted facilities by the British Government to inquire into the conditions of Public Health visiting and the facilities for training Public Health workers in India, wisely attended the Nurses' Conference. She was thus enabled to obtain an insight into nursing work and the difficulties of distance, languages and shortage of funds in India that she could not have acquired in any other way—as it is very difficult for a foreigner to realise national and professional conditions during a few weeks' visit to a strange country, without the expert assistance of experienced workers on the spot—and thus to compile reports of practical value.

Lord Baden Powell in "Lessons from the Varsity of Life" relates that when organising the South African Constabulary he designed a uniform for the men which differed in appearance from that of the Army. "Besides planning out what the men should have as their uniform it also fell to me to design the uniform for our nurses; and for a man, and a bachelor at that, to attempt to dictate what ladies should wear was a pretty bold start on my part.

"I quite expected mutiny, since, among other things, I departed from the universal custom of nurses wearing voluminous cloaks over their uniform dress and gave them instead khaki serge greatcoats rather like those worn by the officers. To my surprise these were so popular that the ladies on taking their discharge (which they had to do on getting married—and they were always getting married) universally asked to purchase them.

"Also their uniform proved popular, comprising as it did brown holland dress with a green shoulder cape with yellow piping, a white headkerchief for indoor duty, and a cowboy hat like those of the officers for outdoors."

(Green and yellow were the national colours of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State respectively.)

We wish we could reproduce the vigorous illustration of the S.A.C. nurse which accompanies this paragraph.

Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., F.B.C.N., Matron, Charing Cross Hospital, will take the Chair at the Section Meeting, at the I.C.N. Congress, in Paris, on July 11th, when "The Preliminary Course" will be discussed.

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