

be given the opportunity of transfer to the position of Assistant Nurse. Existing grades of staff nurse and acting staff nurse in the sense in which the terms are now used will accordingly disappear.

Thus it would appear that any woman too stupid to pass the State examination after every facility has been allowed, may now be added to the rank of semi-trained assistant nurses, who presumably may perform the responsible duties of staff nurse—confusion worse confounded! There can be but one result to this de-grading of nursing efficiency—the disappearance of the intelligent student nurse, conscientiously willing to pass through the curriculum to qualify as an efficient nurse of the sick. The more blunders these ignorant lay county and borough councils make, the sooner Nemesis will overtake them and demand reform.

What a blessing ingredients have run short—so no longer will it be possible to supply silly women with blood-red nail varnish with which to disfigure their hands. This habit is specially obnoxious in hospital—and, when nails are cut to a point, we do not wonder patients object to pricks and scratches when backs are attended to. Surely such barbarous habits should be strictly forbidden; it is incredible that so pernicious a habit should be possible. As apparently Miss Horsbrugh, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, has constituted herself Commander-in-Chief of nursing standards *via* the Nurses Act, may we suggest that she awards no red ribbons or other bimbones to women in the Civil Nursing Reserve whose hands are a danger and annoyance to sick people.

We have received an appropriate gift calculated to remind us of our de-graded professional status should we at any time forget it, which is not presumable.

A friend has presented us with two pottery portraits of Sairey Gamp—one a miniature cream jug embossed with her rubicund bleary face; the second, a smiling miniature statuette in cloak and bonnet, carrying the proverbial "gamp," and a parcel in which we feel sure is secreted the bottle, containing the "comfort", without which "Sairey" was unable to victimise the unfortunate patients who fell into her clutches.

We hope to procure further specimens for friends.

## APPOINTMENT OF MATRON, CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL, LONDON.

Miss Dorothy M. Dickinson, S.R.N., S.C.M., M.B.C.N., has been appointed Matron of Charing Cross Hospital, London, upon the resignation of Miss Mary S. Cochrane, R.R.C., S.R.N.

Miss Dickinson was trained at Charing Cross Hospital from 1929-1934, where she was Gold Medalist of her year, and promoted to the office of Sister of the Gynaecological Ward and of the Theatre.

She was the selected scholar of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain at Bedford College for the year 1933-34, and a member of the first group of students to hold a scholarship under the Florence Nightingale International Foundation. She acquitted herself brilliantly, gaining the Certificate of the F.N.I.F. awarded by the College, and was one of three students who achieved distinction in the whole course. Miss Dickinson subsequently took a course as Housekeeper-Sister at the General Hospital, Birmingham. She also holds the Brompton Hospital Tuberculosis Certificate and the Health Visitors' Certificate awarded by the Minister of Health. Miss Dickinson was appointed Matron of St. Mary's Hospital for Women, Plaistow, in 1937. In 1939 she was appointed Matron of the Ipswich Borough General Hospital, which post she still holds, where her special characteristics, a keen sense of duty and organising ability and determination, her extensive practical knowledge of the science and practice of nursing in its various branches, have been of inestimable value in the uplift of the School of Nursing of which she is the active and practical superintendent.

Miss Dickinson's promotion to the important position of Matron of Charing Cross Hospital

will be a great loss to Ipswich, but it was inevitable that so talented a woman should gravitate to an important metropolitan charge, and we congratulate the Chairman and Committee of popular Charing Cross Hospital upon their selection of one of their own pupils as the future head of its School for Nurses, of which she was so distinguished a member. She will, we feel sure, have their help and support in this responsible position.



Photo: ]

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MISS DOROTHY M. DICKINSON,  
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Appointed Matron to Charing Cross Hospital,  
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