

I AM very pleased to be able to state that, out of an unusually large number of competitors, Nurse Reddoch has been adjudged the successful candidate in the Twenty-second Post-Card Examination, which had for its subject—"What do you understand by Phlegmasia Dolens?" The increasing popularity of these examinations is pleasing to note, and I would respectfully draw my readers' attention to the one set in the present issue.

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I HAVE again to congratulate the Editor and proprietor of that excellent interesting periodical, the *Gentlewoman*, which in its Holiday Fashion Number, for the first time in a ladies' journal, provides for its readers a complete set of costumes for every purpose required during the holidays. They are beautifully executed, and this Holiday number is really a feature of the season.

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Apropos of Hospitals, at a recent meeting of the House of Lords Inquiry Committee, Dr. Knox, Medical Officer of Bethnal Green Workhouse, stated the Hospital contained 495 beds, the tenants of which were attended to by a day staff consisting of one superintendent, eleven Nurses, two male and two female imbecile attendants, and three infirm Ward Nurses. The night staff was composed of eight ordinary infirm Nurses, one male and one female imbecile attendant, and one female infirm Ward Nurse. The matron had not received any Hospital training, and only one of the Nurses held any Hospital certificate. He contended that the system of pauper help was a crying evil. They had as many as eighty paupers employed during the winter. He computed that each Nurse had about four wards to look after, and in some cases as many as six on different floors. The average number of beds to each ward was nine or ten. Lord Cathcart: I suppose you enjoy at Bethnal Green the repute of being the very worst establishment of this kind in the metropolis? Yes, I believe so.—And the whole thing ought to be amended, or abolished, or reconstituted to-morrow, if that were possible? Abolished, my lord. I think it would be impossible to amend it.—In fact, the whole thing is a crying and notorious evil, is it not? That is so, in my opinion.

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I HOPE that my readers won't think that I take a personal delight in quoting and remarking upon these things. I do so because I want, as far as it is within my power, to point out and emphasise that here in our very midst, within a few yards of our doors, are permitted and carried out such arrangements and misarrangements as

is a disgrace to a civilised community. It must be remembered that this is not mere hearsay or gossip, but solemn and sworn evidence. If medical gentlemen would only, like Dr. Knox, have the courage to give their testimony upon oath of the abominations which are daily occurring in the so-called administration of many of our public institutions, such a deluge of public opinion and such a flood of light would be let into the whole proceedings as would prevent their continuance. Imagine—if it can be imagined—a Matron of a Hospital of four hundred and ninety-five beds, and twenty-six out of the twenty-seven Nurses and attendants employed either without Hospital training or without certificates—such a dreadful state of things passes quite out of the regions of reason into those of absolute culpability.

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DR. BRIDGES, the Medical Superintendent of the Metropolitan District for Poor Law Relief, who was also examined before the Lords Committee, stated that there were in London twenty-four Infirmarys, having 12,445 beds. There were also 4,000 beds in the Workhouses. He did not think that was sufficient for the population. He urged that it would be a very desirable reform if all Matrons of Infirmarys were Trained Nurses, for while now there were Trained Nurses at the Infirmarys, there were a number of Matrons who were not qualified Nurses. Although there was no friction, the influence of the Matrons over the Nurses was not sufficient from a professional point of view. He also thought that the Infirmarys could be utilised with great advantage by the Medical Profession for clinical instruction. Mr. Charles Cross, Medical Superintendent at St. Saviour's Infirmary, East Dulwich, said that was the largest in London, and had 786 beds. He also was in favour of the Matrons being in all cases Trained Nurses. The *Nursing Record* has been advocating the employment only of properly Trained Matrons for Poor Law Infirmarys ever since the first number was published. I am greatly rejoiced to find that the subject is likely to be thoroughly and practically taken up, which I shall heartily support, although the probability is that this journal will very likely be called everything that is not polite for doing so.

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I HAVE much pleasure in announcing that Mrs. J. G. Taylor, the Matron of the Victoria Hospital for Children, has been adjudged the winner of the Twenty-fourth Competitive Prize Essay Competition (the essay is printed in this issue), which had for its subject the following:—"Describe in full the amount and kind of help required in a Hospital laundry. The Hospital contains sixty-four beds, and there is a daily average of fifty-four

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