

workers in asylums, and for this reason "insane attendants" have not received much of the sympathy which the nature of their work so fully deserves. Their association will help to make known the trials and disadvantages under which so many of these attendants work. And it will further re-act on the patients themselves by introducing a higher and more uniform standard of training than is at present possible. We wish the Association every success and prosperity, and cordially hope that this effort at organisation will receive widespread support, not only from the workers themselves, but from the authorities and officials of our Insane Asylums.

Sir William Broadbent, Cardinal Vaughan, the Earl and Countess of Arran, Sir Stuart Knill and others have been appointed Vice-Presidents of the Association. We hope that the workers themselves will take a leading part in the important work of organising this movement for the improvement of their status.

AN Asylum attendant writes:—

"As your correspondent whose application to join a Nursing Institute was refused on the ground of her wearing spectacles, has asked for instances of similar incidents, she may be interested to hear that I was refused a position as attendant at an Asylum on similar grounds. It was not exactly a *rule* of the Institution, but the then resident Medical Superintendent had very decided views on the subject of glasses. He even went so far as to affirm that defect in eyesight should disqualify a woman from training as an Asylum attendant, just as it is an effectual bar to the entrance of boys and young men into the Army and Navy. His argument lay chiefly in what he asserted as a fact, viz., that glasses of any kind have a peculiarly irritating effect on insane people; and he suggested that he had noticed the same irritation produced in patients in a delirious condition, whose Nurses wore any kind or description of spectacles. And he strengthened his objection to attendants, male or female, in Insane Asylums wearing any artificial aids to sight by dwelling on the possible dangerous injuries which would result to the attendants by a blow aimed at, or a missile thrown at the offending *pince-nez*. I confess I was so harrowed by the picture he conjured up of a possible violent attack being made on my harmless glasses by some enraged insane patient that even if the Medical Superintendent had been willing to engage me I was much too frightened by the exaggerated vision that came before my short-sighted eyes of plates and dishes being aimed at my glittering glasses, to enter upon the duties. I think it was a 'fad' of this particular doctor, because I have had no difficulties raised elsewhere on account of my visional deficiencies."

A NOVEL argument was brought forward at a recent meeting of the Sheffield Board of Guardians, when notice was made that there

was no accommodation in the Infirmary for additional Nurses, whereupon

Mr. Ashberry remarked that Nurses were at a premium now, as they got married so quickly. He therefore warned the Guardians of their position if Nurses became scarcer, and expressed the opinion that the accommodation for them should be increased with the extension of the Hospital. Then they would be able to educate and train their own Nurses. If this was not done he did not see the use of extending the Hospital.

It is rather difficult to see the point of the statement. Did Mr. Ashberry mean to infer that the Nurses trained by the Infirmary would not have the extensive matrimonial opportunities he so deplored? And if so, why? The Sheffield young women will hesitate before entering the Infirmary if Mr. Ashberry gives it such a reputation!

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—

"I have followed with interest all that has been said about Midwives and their Registration. Will you believe, that in such a large town as the one I live in, there are numbers of women who have never been on the steps, much less inside a Hospital, who attend women in their confinements? Just recently a woman of very bad reputation was summoned from the *union weeding* to attend the confinement of the wife of a gardener here. I try my utmost, as district Nurse, to show the women what a risk they run, entrusting themselves and their lives to such persons, but they do not seem to realise it."

THE following advertisement from a fashionable paper is distinctly "up-to-date" in the universal desire supposed to exist to-day for "treatment" of various kinds.

MAN and WIFE: England or Abroad: Man as VALET and TRAVELLING SERVANT or BUTLER; age 26; height 6ft.; good appearance; speaks French; good traveller; can shave. Woman Hospital-trained Nurse, LADY'S MAID or HOUSEKEEPER; certificated masseuse and medical electrician; facial massage; age 27; both English: previously lived together as valet-travelling servant and nurse; highest testimonials, and can be well recommended; or any other suitable position.

Here we have a man qualified as a butler, speaking French, who is not too proud to "shave" his employer; while the wife would appear to be a walking compendium of every form of "treatment" that her mistress could possibly desire. She is not only a Hospital-

"SAMARITAN" PURE DELICIOUS CEYLON TEA delivered free in London and Suburbs at 2s. per lb. Minimum quantity for Country 25lbs. MATRONS, NURSES and others should recommend this delicious tea to their friends and patients. By doing so they benefit two deserving Institutions, as each packet contains a COUPON entitling the LONDON HOSPITAL and the EARLSWOOD ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS to a small donation. To be obtained only from the "SAMARITAN" TEA COMPANY, 5, LONDON WALL AVENUE, E.C.

*previous page*

*next page*