

strapped down in bed. Witness asked the Nurse if deceased had said anything, and she replied in a rude manner, 'You must ask the doctor; it is not my place to know.' Altogether the Nurse was very uncivil."

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SURELY, it was the Nurse's place to know what the patient had said. And duty as well as humanity should have prompted her to treat his friends with all the kindness in her power. Hospitals are public property, maintained by the public for public use, and officials should never forget that they hold office only in the public service. Nothing that can increase distrust in the beneficent intention and conduct of Hospitals should be lightly passed over, and a Nurse who could give evidence after the fashion of Nurse Ord, is not likely to inspire either trust or respect in the minds of patients or their friends.

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NURSES have a great deal to try the temper and wear the patience; but in all these things we can be "more than conquerors" if we will make it our invariable rule of conduct to think of others first and ourselves second.

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THE courtesy and tact both of the Hospital and the private Nurse will often stand for more even than skill and experience; and though the latter are invaluable, they can be seriously depreciated by the absence of the former.

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"ALICE ORD, a Nurse at Poplar Hospital, denied the allegations made against her by the two previous witnesses, and said that the deceased was not sensible all the time he was in the Hospital; in fact, she thought he was insane. He was not violent, but wanted to get out of bed; and he used bad language. The deceased's right hand was the only part strapped to the bed, and that was done by the Matron in order to prevent him pulling off his bandages. Both his hands were burnt.

The Coroner: Was there any other strapping?

Witness: No.

In answer to the foreman the witness said that she was sure that the only part of the deceased that was strapped was his right hand.

Mrs. EVE was then brought in, and on being questioned said: He was strapped all over the chest with sacking, and another thing round his throat. We could not see his poor hands. There were ropes with brass rings.

The Coroner: Where were the ropes?

Witness: All round him and under the bed.

The Coroner (to the Nurse): Is that so?

The Nurse: Oh, I quite forgot that. (Sensation).

The Foreman: I asked you twice particularly about that and you denied it.

Witness: I quite forgot it.

The Nurse then said that the deceased was strapped down with a tie-sheet, which was a canvas covering with brass rings, through which ropes were passed under the bed, the object being to keep a delirious patient in bed.

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THE poor and uneducated are apt to view with great fear and terror surgical measures that educated people understand and endure patiently; and very often in the Hospital Ward the intelligent kindness of a Nurse will go a long way in reconciling the friends of a patient to treatment which appears harsh. Surely it would have been worth while to explain to JOHN EVE's friends that a "tie-sheet" was not so likely to hurt a badly burnt patient who had to be kept from getting out of bed, as the pressure and force of human hands.

* * *

WHEN the writer was in a London Hospital, it sometimes happened that a patient would cry out on seeing a clinical thermometer for the first time, and beg piteously to be let off being "cut" by it. It took half an hour one night to persuade a semi-delirious woman to allow the innocent thing to be put under her arm. But her gratitude for the magic effects she attributed to it, was wonderfully touching, and even amusing. When a fresh case came in, in the days of her convalescence, she used to cheer them up in this wise: "They'll put a bit o' glass with somethink in it under yer arm, an' it'll go all through yer, same as it did me, an' make yer well in no time!"

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THE soul of Bumble is being much exercised over the appointment of a woman as relieving officer, and one of his order has unburdened his mind in a letter, part of which is as follows:—

WOMEN AS RELIEVING OFFICERS.

To the Editor of the "Daily Chronicle."

SIR,—As one who has had very long experience in Poor-law work, I must differ from your correspondent of to-day as to the desirability of women being appointed relieving officers.

The relieving officer has also to listen to, and investigate tales of vice, and it is difficult to understand the readiness with which some are desirous of pushing women into positions where they must listen to such sickening details. It is to be hoped that "capable" women will not be found to apply for such posts, or desire to be placed in the novel and interesting position of controlling male assistants. I do not believe that the Local Government Board really favour such female appointments, but have only given way out of deference to the wishes of some board of guardians who ought to have known better.—Yours obediently,

Holloway, December 27.

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It is surely a mistake to write of "pushing women into positions." If a woman becomes a relieving officer it will be of her own choice in the first instance, and secondly by the choice of the guardians. As a rule the push comes in where unsuitable people have to be got out of such positions. But whenever BUMBLE manifests anxiety to protect women from "sickening details" concerning the lives of

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