

ance with her Nurses; and keeps a keen eye to detect evidences of incipient ill-health or overstrain among her staff. Should she see any such sign, the Nurse is immediately taken off duty, and made to take a rest. In this way, many of what might have proved serious illnesses have been averted. To Miss Cureton it is a sacred duty that the welfare of the Nurses be regarded, and it is therefore with peculiar pleasure that she shows her visitor over the Sick Nurses' Ward, which forms part of a detached building in the grounds. Everything that kindly forethought, love, and technical knowledge can suggest is here to be found, there being no limit save that which is prescribed by lack of funds; and it is with some pride that Miss Cureton turns over the dainty lace-edged tray cloths and directs attention to the cosy basket chairs, and pretty blue washable carpet stretched over felt to deaden noise. One and all vie in their efforts to make a sick comrade feel her surroundings as much like home as possible, and this admirable trait reflects credit on the Matron, for we venture to say, Like Matron, like Nurse. This Ward will remain as one of the monuments of Miss Cureton's administration, for it has only become an accomplished fact during her term of office. The money was raised in various ways: some by the Governors of the Hospital; some by the friends of the late Matron, Miss Alice Fisher; and the remainder by the energy and efforts of the Nurses themselves in working for a Bazaar held to raise funds.

During the last twelve or eighteen months, the Hospital has passed through deep waters, and in the process has incurred a large debt. It became absolutely essential that the drainage be overhauled. Of course, the Hospital had to be emptied; but a few urgent cases were treated in a building lent by the University for the time being. Then followed an army of painters and decorators. But the result is that the Hospital is now made in every respect worthy of its position in a great University town.

Since these alterations and improvements have been effected, a rumour has been going the usual round to the effect that the Hospital is extravagantly conducted, and that there is unnecessary waste. When, however, the light of statistics was brought to bear upon the matter, this rumour (readily listened to by those who make their gifts merely as "a sop to the Cerberus" of an uneasy conscience) was found to be as "the baseless fabric of a dream." On comparing the expenditure with that at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, and Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, it was found that so far from being extravagant, everything was conducted with the most rigorous economy; that luxuries were cut down, and waste carefully avoided. Take the item of ale and porter. In

1882, this cost £160 6s. 6d.; in 1892, it was £29 15s. 9d. Expenditure upon milk has gone up from £332 9s. 3d. in 1882 to £481 4s. 9d. in 1892. Is this extravagance? The bread bill has decreased, and the necessary waste of the kitchen has been made to bring in a larger revenue. Thus in every single particular the rumour has been refuted, and the Hospital and its management restored—if it can be said to have lost it even for a moment—to the full confidence of the town and University of Cambridge.

We cannot bring this short sketch to a close without mentioning one fact, which we know will delight the heart of Lady Henry Somerset, and the Temperance reformers of this country, namely, that "Miss Cureton, her assistant, some of the staff Nurses, most of the Probationers, and all the servants and porters are teetotallers," thus affording to all who seek medical aid in the time of sickness and distress the most practical of Temperance teaching.

Miss Cureton is one of the most active, and was one of the first, members of the Royal British Nurses' Association; was one of the signatories of the Royal Charter, and one of the fourteen Nurses mentioned by name in the Incorporation clause of that historical document; served on the first Executive Committee, and is now a member of the General Council; and is, of course, a Registered Nurse.

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### The Registered Nurses' Society.

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DEAR NURSES,—Now that after some weeks delay King Sol has condescended to show us the light of his countenance again, the necessity for a holiday makes itself felt, especially by those who have undergone the strain of continuous nursing in private houses; and this is a slight preamble to the question—When do you want to take your summer holiday? The Committee, in drawing up the rules which are necessary for the organization, have specified that each Nurse is at liberty to take eight weeks' rest in the year, and to take these at such times as may be most convenient to herself. At the same time, it would be a distinct disadvantage to your Society, if everyone wanted to be away at the same time. I should therefore be glad if all those who wish to be off duty in July and August, would communicate the arrangements they desire to make, to the Office, as soon as possible, as by this means we shall doubtless be able to meet all your wishes upon this point.

There is another matter to which I must draw your attention at once. As you know, many of the leading doctors in London are helping the Society and apply to the office for Registered Nurses, so that we very

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