

carrying out only the duties belonging to her own section of the hospital, but she often has to do many other things besides.

The Matron in an English hospital has complete control, and she accords a similar authority to the Sisters of the various wards and departments. It is true that the constitution of the hospitals out here is somewhat different, but there is no reason why the Nursing Superintendent should not have as complete authority out here as she would have at home. That this is unhappily not the case in many hospitals, we all know quite well. Those who ought to support the Nursing Superintendent fail to do so, with disastrous results. I know of cases where the Matron's verdict with reference to an insubordinate nurse has been over-ruled to the great detriment of the nurses and the danger of the patients.

Unless the Matron is given full and complete charge of the whole of the nursing department of the hospital, it is quite useless to hope for a proper maintenance of discipline and it is manifestly unfair to blame her if the highest standards are not reached. How to remedy this state of affairs, I know not, but I believe that to some extent it, too, will right itself in course of time as an ever increasing number of fully trained nurses comes out to take charge of the various Training Schools of this country.—F. E. CAMPBELL.

### AN INCIDENT.

ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL, KARNAL, PUNJAB.

(By WYNNEFREDE BURY.)

ON January 4th, which happened to be a particularly cold day, a policeman came to the bungalow with a kerosine tin in his hand, and asked if he might see the doctor. When she came he opened the tin and inside there was a very small, prematurely born, little girl baby, wrapped in a little piece of dirty old *chaddar*, and very, very cold. The policeman had brought her from the railway station where the box had been found on the platform as soon as it was light. The baby was only a few hours old and very much collapsed; she was evidently not wanted and had been put out for any one to find or not as the train went through, she being only a girl baby, it did not signify if she lived or died. She is still very small, and although she is now a month old, she weighs only 5 lbs., but she had a bad cough which kept her back. These Indian nurses are devoted to her. She was baptized a Sunday ago, and we gave her the name, Elizabeth Taramini (Little one of the Star), as she was born so near the Feast of the Epiphany, and Elizabeth, as she belongs to St. Elizabeth's Hospital. I hope she will grow up. One of the nurses is her Godmother together with the Sister-in-Charge.

## THE NURSING WORLD.

IT will be remembered that mention was made last month of a movement to introduce First Aid Women Assistants in uniform into the ranks of the American Red Cross. This was objected to by the nurses on the ground that it would cause confusion between trained nurses, of whom the Red Cross Nursing Service is entirely composed, and those without a full training. This plan has been abandoned, and in accordance with recommendations made by the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service, it has been further decided,—First: That the organization of classes for women, except in first-aid, shall be placed under the direction of the Nursing Service of the Red Cross. Second: That independent detachments of women shall not be organized by the Red Cross. Third: That no uniform for women other than nurses shall be authorized by the Red Cross. Fourth: That should it be desirable, either in time of war or calamity, to utilize a volunteer service of women for rest stations, distribution of supplies, or any other form of relief work, that such volunteers shall be under the direction of the Red Cross Nursing Service.

The British Journal of Nursing comments on a New Association of Nurses proposed by Mr. J. S. Pollitt. The hope seems to be to form the entire body of qualified nurses in England and Wales into a self-supporting, self-governing Association for the promotion of all ends which will make for the advancement of the nursing profession. Except the suggestion that the Society obtain recognition as a diploma-granting authority, which is undesirable, the aims seem to be very much the same as those of any other national Association of nurses, and the necessary thing is to draw all the nurses into the Associations which together form the National Council instead of forming a new Association. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick thinks that nothing can be done until nurses have a legal status, but it seems probable that a vast body of nurses associated together, representative of the entire nursing profession could hasten on materially the passage of a Registration Act.

A few incidents are quoted from a contemporary on the ever popular subject of the extravagance of nurses.

"I shall never employ a trained nurse again when I can avoid doing so," said a friend to me once, "they are too expensive. It is not the fees I object to, but the expenses which are due to extravagance in so many directions. One Nurse sat so absorbed in a novel that she allowed the bottom of the bronchitis kettle to burn out, and when I called her attention to the fact she replied

cheerfully, "We shall have to get a new kettle." Not a word of apology for the carelessness!"

At a case, where necessary expenses were continuously deplored I was asked one morning by her sister if the patient might have quails or snipe for her dinner. Did she specially desire quails or snipe? I inquired of the patient. No. She likes them as well as many another dish, not more. So I suggested, Why go to the expense of such birds when the patient was really well enough to eat a beef-steak pudding? "Would you like a beef-steak pudding?" I asked. She would, emphatically; so beef-steak pudding it was, a quite fascinating morsel, made in a lilliputian pudding basin.

A friend, who happened to be one of the most excellent nurses I have ever known, had just left a case. "Can you buy a nice pocket fruit-knife for eight and-six?" she asked of me.

"Yes. Why?" I replied.

"Because mine was used for the patient, and got thrown into the fire with some orange-peel, so I have charged the people eight-and-six for it."

"Who threw the orange-peel into the fire?" I queried, prompted by my knowledge of the questioner.

"I did," was the reply!

#### BOOK REVIEWS.

"HOSPITAL and Dispensary Code," by Major N. P. O'Gorman Lalor, M.B., D.F.H., I.M.S., Thacker Spink & Co., Calcutta, Rs. 2-0. To keep in the emergency box, or take in the pocket for sudden calls, when the wits are not unknown to scatter themselves, specially those of Indians, this little book is highly to be recommended. It may also serve a useful purpose to those intending to build a cheap, small hospital and dispensary, as plans are given. It has also some good recipes for convalescent diets with average cost tabulated, including a good variety; we should not recommend the calf's foot jelly, nor the sponge cake to be tried as directed, for the one would be quite sure to have a meaty, gluey flavor, and the other could not possibly be spongy:—all the rest appear to be feasible and good. The concise directions for acute cases, operation and emergency ones; as distinct from those to which time can be taken, are excellent. Most hospitals and dispensaries would be the better for one well studied.

"Elements of Anatomy and Physiology," by W. Bernard Secretan, M.B. Lond., F.R.C.S., & L.R.C.P., The Scientific Press, Ltd. 28, Southampton Street, Strand W. C. Post free 2-3d. Dr. Secretan, finding some difficulty as lecturer to the nurses of the