

agents of the Secretary at War, correspond directly with the War Office, and consist for the most part of its confidential *employés*, charged with the duty of preventing waste, and promoting economy. It is not wonderful, therefore, that some of these officers should abuse their privileges, refuse to purchase articles sanctioned by the principal Medical Officer, and even make unfavorable reports of him to the War Office, and accuse him of thwarting the economical views of the Secretary at War.

As one proof of the extent to which the system of shabby economy has been carried by the War Department, I may state the following small fact. Whilst the head quarters of the writer's regiment were stationed at Enniskillen, in Ireland, in 1823, he was detached at Cavan, forty miles distant, being then an Assistant Surgeon. One day he received an official order to proceed immediately to head quarters, the Surgeon having been attacked with sudden and dangerous illness. The writer started in the mail coach an hour afterwards. In a few days the Paymaster applied to the War Office for authority to pay twenty-three shillings, the fare of the coach. This was refused, on the ground that the Surgeon's horse ought to have been sent for the Assistant Surgeon, and expense thus saved. It was asked, how was his baggage to be conveyed? The final reply was the horse should carry both! The amount has never been paid, and probably some War Office clerk has been remunerated for suggesting this small saving, by a per centage on the twenty-three shillings.

I have little doubt that many of the complaints of the British Hospitals in Turkey and the Crimea arose from a fear of displeasing the War Office authorities by any remarkable outlay, and a concurrent apprehension that it would not be sanctioned. Indeed the minds of Purveyors, and Medical Officers also, must have been narrowed by being trained in a system of pinching economy, and could not easily expand and adapt themselves to the exigencies of the time. They ought to have reflected that the pressure of public opinion, would make even the War Office liberal, and that their persistence in their old stinginess might now be highly disapproved.

During the Winter the want of food must have caused great distress in the Camp Hospitals at Sebastopol, and indeed it appears strange how any patient could recover in a thin tent, at a temperature about zero of Fahrenheit. I wonder in the general outcry against the Medical Department that this was not laid to their charge.

With respect to the exertions of Miss Nightingale and her companions,