

year so organized the Nursing Staff that they are now able to supply a Trained Nurse to attend all cases requiring such aid in the town or neighbourhood. I regret to note that Miss Heanley has been ill; and I consider that the Committee have only done their duty in acknowledging the kind services rendered by Miss Chisholm, who filled up the gap, without any addition to the expenses of the institution. A deficit of £18 1s. 3d. is shown on the balance-sheet, yet as far as I can see, if the subscribers could only see their way to increase their subscriptions one shilling per head this ought to be easily wiped off. A very useful and well compiled table of "cases treated" is also given.

THE *Whitehaven News* of the 9th has some sensible, straightforward remarks respecting workhouse Nurses, that I am glad to be able to give them *in extenso*. This is what it says:—"The Whitehaven Guardians will be taking measures with respect to the employment of a paid Nurse at the Workhouse; and they might very well consider the matter in view of a little of the light thrown on the subject by the employment of a Trained Nurse by the Whitehaven Trustees. The Guardians wish to have a paid Nurse, but not a Trained Nurse. This seems what is properly described as 'inconceivably silly.' But it is not what it seems. The paid Nurse required, we are told, is a 'competent' Nurse who is not a Trained Nurse. If it were possible to conceive of anything more foolish than what is 'inconceivably silly,' I should say this definition is an example of such a brilliant effort of mind.

"THERE is no mistake about what a Trained Nurse is. Trained Nurses are persons belonging to a body who know what they ought to do, and do it. In Workhouses they allow no interference that will operate against the proper discharge of their duties in the interests of the suffering paupers under their care. They are backed up by the medical officers of Workhouses. They are regarded with approval by the Local Government Board and its inspectors. They are consequently, as a rule, regarded with aversion by Workhouse Masters and Matrons. Much is made of isolated instances of public inquiries into the delinquencies of Trained Nurses. If the same motive were present to prompt information against pauper Nursing; the inspectors of the Local Government Board would have their hands full.

"I CAN vouch for the authenticity of the following statement of fact, though I mention no names. In a public Hospital, during an outbreak of a highly infectious and loathsome disease, there

were ten patients in charge of one old woman, who was a cripple. The old lady was remunerated by as much tobacco as she could smoke, and as much liquor as she could imbibe, so long as she steadied herself up somewhat to pass muster when the medical attendant was due. As these kind of statements are sometimes liable to misapprehension, I may say that the date of this occurrence is not within recent years. Nevertheless, it is wholly applicable and comparable to pauper nursing in Workhouses as it sometimes exists."

I HAVE a "confessional book" of my own full of notes of "cases" of the like kind, which, some day or other, I may be able to make use of, and which bear out exactly the condition of affairs as alluded to by the *Whitehaven News*.

I AM informed that at the weekly meeting of the Balloon Society of Great Britain, held at St. James's Hall on Friday evening last, Mr. W. H. Le Fevre, C.E., in the chair, Mr. H. Nelson Hardy, F.R.C.S., read a paper on the subject of "London Hospitals and Their Nurses." The lecturer premised that no nobler Institutions exist in our midst, or have ever, in his opinion, existed anywhere, than those famous Hospitals, Guy's, St. Bartholomew's and Bethlehem, which had done such good work in the past. He stated that for the last twenty years there had been complaints of the management of these Institutions, which had led to the appointment of a Committee of the House of Lords. Having given the value of some of the principal Hospitals, Mr. Hardy pointed out that the treatment of in-patients was now only *one* of the objects kept in view; others were the treatment of all out-patients who applied, the education of medical students, and the training of Nurses. To the latter point a large number of the sittings of the House of Lords Committee had been devoted. He thought the reforms chiefly needed were—(1) A Central Board to control all Hospitals; (2) the separation of the Medical Schools from the Hospitals; (3) the opening of Poor Law Infirmaries and Dispensaries for medical study.

THE following resolution was moved by Dr. Woods (Highgate): "That in the opinion of this meeting a Central Board of Control of voluntary Hospitals and Dispensaries is urgently required, to which all questions relating to admission and treatment of out or in patients, to the Medical Schools and to the training of Nurses could be referred." Nurse Burn-Bailly seconded the motion, which was supported by Mr. Ray, Capt. De Carteret-Bisson, Mr. Pattison, and Major

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