

twice as much as it had received, drawing on its previous balance to that extent. The motion was carried. The retiring office-bearers was re-elected. Votes of thanks were passed to the chairman for presiding, and to the doctors and the press for assistance rendered, and the meeting terminated.

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AN item of news, just received from one of my readers in Durham, is an excellent sign of the times and of the manner in which the Local Government Board is putting pressure quietly on the Workhouse Infirmaries, to raise their standard of Nursing. It appears that on the 4th inst., at a meeting of the Auckland Board of Guardians, the Clerk read a letter from the Local Government Board which stated that in the opinion of that Board the Nursing arrangements at the Workhouse were not satisfactory, and suggested that the consideration of the appointment of two Nurses should be referred to the Visiting Committee.

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THE Cheltenham Board of Guardians recently came to the wise decision to completely re-organise the Nursing in their Workhouse Infirmary, and employ trained Nurses and Probationers instead of pauper "helps." One of the speakers said: "There was one paid Nurse in each Hospital, but her energies were not equal to attending to forty patients, nor could she be in attendance day and night. As to the incompetence of the pauper assistance, it might be put even more strongly than the Chairman had stated it. Taking the female Infirmary, one old Nurse of 75 suffered from chronic rheumatism and was half a patient herself; another was gouty, and all were more or less incapable and infirm. In the men's ward, the ages were still greater. The youngest, aged 28, was an imbecile, and the ages of the others ranged from 63 to 82; the man aged 63 was blind in one eye and could hardly see with the other. Such a state of things was simply disgraceful, and if any illustration were needed it would suffice to mention the fact that a short time since, during the absence of the Nurse, and in disobedience to her instructions, one of these pauper 'helps' allowed a patient to get out of bed, and so accelerated death." I am not at all surprised to observe that the ladies on the Board all voted for the reform, nor that the stock argument against it was that the paupers had nursed each other for 20 years, and had made no complaint.

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In connection with this, an article which appeared this month in the *Manchester Guardian* is very interesting. It reads as follows:—

The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.

"In a memorial to the President of the Local Government Board, signed by Princess Christian, the Duchess of Teck, and other members of the Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association, the necessity of defining the duties and responsibilities of all who are concerned in looking after the sick poor and of preventing waste of power and confusion is clearly and carefully set forth. It is quite easy to understand that in many cases a Matron who was well able to superintend the old-fashioned Nurses of earlier days may be less able to undertake the supervision of an institution when trained Nurses are introduced, and there is force certainly in the contention of the memorialists that 'if the Matron is the controlling official of trained Nurses, she also should be trained.' This is not always the case now, but if it were general, the infirmaries could be utilised as training schools for Probationers. Everyone will sympathise, too, with the desire of the memorialists to secure the Nursing of sick inmates by trained Nurses only; and though in large workhouses when epidemics prevail, or during other periods of pressure, it would be difficult to avoid calling in the services of untrained assistants, the provision of an adequate number of trained Nurses for sick paupers should be considered just as much a duty as in the case of patients in Hospitals. Some of the other suggestions have already been carried out in many workhouses, and it is chiefly for the sake of the unfortunates in the less satisfactorily managed houses that Princess Christian and her colleagues have been induced to approach the Government. They know from experience that there is room for improvement both in the metropolitan and provincial workhouses, and, having carefully considered the most pressing requirements, they indicate methods which might with advantage be adopted in them all. In writing of the sick wards in provincial workhouses they observe that these 'vary from the well-appointed infirmary organised for its work, with its Superintendent Nurse and staff of day and night Nurses, to the small ward in the workhouse, with its untrained attendant, supplemented by a pauper help, dependent on paupers for night Nursing. The objects of the Society are undoubtedly praiseworthy. During the fourteen years of its existence it has provided nearly five hundred Nurses for workhouse infirmaries, a hundred and ninety of whom have been trained at its own expense. Being in touch, too, with these Nurses, who are scattered all over the country, the Society is in a position to understand their difficulties, and the direction in which their work may be made more useful and efficient."

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CONSIDERABLE improvements and additions have recently been made at the Ayr County Hospital especially with respect to the accommodation for the Nurses. A Nurses' sitting room has been built and furnished by Mr. J. B. FERGUSSON, of Doonholm, and his brother, Major H. J. FERGUSSON. It is a large, elegant, cheerful room, opening directly from the Nurses' dining hall, which up till now has served the purpose of a sitting room as well. The new room is handsomely furnished in drawing room style, the prevailing tone of colour being blue. A new bath room for Nurses has also been provided. Considering the laborious duties entailed upon the Sisters and Nurses, it will be generally

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