

moral courage to speak out straightforwardly when occasion required. A Matron should be capable of ruling with firmness and kindness, without partiality, and should maintain such discipline and tone, that there would be no necessity to hold up the Medical Superintendent as a terror and a bogey to the Nurses and assistants under her."

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THE Local Government Board have issued a circular to boards of Guardians stating that if any dangerous infectious disease should visit Ireland and become epidemic, the number of trained Nurses would be found to be inadequate to meet the demand for their services. Under these circumstances the Local Government Board suggests that Boards of Guardians should make use of the Workhouse Hospitals for the purpose of training Nurses, whose services would be available in the event of cholera or other formidable infectious disease appearing within the Unions. The Guardians of each Union might select a limited number of suitable persons willing to enter their service for training, and the Local Government Board feel assured that if Boards of Guardians appointed a few young women as probationary assistant Nurses in the Hospital and fever wards of each Workhouse, the medical officers in charge and the regularly appointed Nurses would be willing to afford them such practical instruction in the nursing and care of the sick as would qualify them to attend the sick poor in any epidemic which might arise. Under article 24 of the general regulations Guardians are empowered to appoint temporary assistants, and the Local Government Board are prepared to sanction any reasonable expenditure undertaken in order to carry into effect the suggestion contained in their circular.

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WITH regard to the Annual Report of the Dublin Hospitals, the *Lancet* says that the mortality of the patients in the Westmoreland Lock Hospital was 2.61 per cent. on the total number treated to a termination of their illness, and the medical staff are of opinion that of late years the virulence of specific diseases has diminished, which may be ascribed to the fact that patients find ready access to the Institution and are never denied admittance. The low mortality (4.39 per cent.) at Steeven's Hospital, the Board point out, may be chiefly attributed to the large number of constabulary patients that are admitted, many for diseases that are comparatively less fatal than those that are usually admitted into general Hospitals. The Board speak highly of the order, regularity and

cleanliness which prevailed in the Meath Hospital. The main building of this Hospital is as perfect as it can be made and is supplied and furnished with every modern requirement up to date; but the board cannot approve of the detached fever wards, which are too small and not arranged according to modern views. The managing committee have, however, in contemplation the building of a new and commodious wing or detached building, for the reception of patients suffering from infectious diseases. To make this Hospital attain its fullest usefulness it would be necessary to have more extended accommodation for surgical cases. It may be mentioned that the bed urinals in use are of glass, and it is to be hoped that other Hospitals may adopt the same kind. The governors of the House of Industry Hospitals, anticipating a visitation of an epidemic of cholera or small-pox in Dublin, have taken steps to make due provision for the reception, isolation and medical treatment of patients affected with such diseases. The Rotunda Lying-in Hospital, as a school for giving instruction in gynæcological and obstetric teaching holds the highest reputation. The accommodation for the reception and treatment of patients affected with diseases peculiar to women having been considered inadequate, the governors have decided to erect a large and well-appointed auxiliary Hospital in close connection with the existing buildings, and to convert the old auxiliary Hospital into a residence for male officers and pupils. The mortality of the labour patients, deducting non-parturient cases, was 0.78 per cent., and that of the chronic class was 3.70 per cent. The governing corporation of the Coombe Lying-in Hospital is self elected and limited to twenty-one members, without any reference to those subscribers who contribute to the support of the Institution. This system appears to be indefensible; a charitable Hospital should be governed by a committee elected by the subscribers. The mortality of the labour patients was 2.05 per cent., and for the chronic cases 2.18 per cent. The governors of St. Mark's Ophthalmic Hospital are anxious to effect such an amalgamation with the National Eye and Ear Infirmary as would ensure the erection of a new Hospital more useful to the public. When the terms of the draft scheme are agreed upon it is proposed that the governors of the two Hospitals should combine in a joint application to the public for the sum of £15,000, which would be necessary to erect the new Institution. As, however, amalgamation has been talked of for the past three years or so, I am not very sanguine that these Institutions will amalgamate for the present.

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