

sadly need reform. We are inclined to believe that the abuses and horrors connected with the sick wards of some workhouses in this country, controlled by the guardians of the poor, equal, if they do not even surpass, the worst phases of official cruelty which the world has ever seen.' This may or may not be true, but I for one Infirmity Nurse must repudiate the idea that the abuses which have made the Nursing department of the London Hospital notorious for the past ten years would be permitted to exist in this Infirmity for a day. The regulations of our Nursing School conform to the high standard advocated by the Select Committee of the House of Lords and our Chartered Corporation of Nurses. Our term of training is three years, with theoretical and practical instruction in Nursing. No Probationer is promoted to the responsible position of Head Nurse until she obtains her certificate of competency after examination. We do not exploit our half-trained Probationers by advertising them daily in the *Times* as 'thoroughly trained Nurses.' Our wards are open to the inspection of guardians—not personally conducted by officials—at any time, and also to the educated inspection of an experienced medical official of the Local Government Board, so that custard puddings in the waste tub and beef tea down the sink would be hardly a safe, if efficacious, way of getting rid of surplus food, nor would flat-footed Sisters and Nurses stump about on duty regardless of notice, in our wards. Last, but not least, we are not governed by newspaper proprietors whose property is sold by officials in the wards, whose advertisement sheets teem with costly advertisements of our necessities, and who attempt thus to exercise a system of terrorism which some weak officials have not the courage to withstand. Having worked both in voluntary and poor-law Institutions I have no hesitation in saying that the sooner our voluntary Hospitals are placed upon the rates and similarly controlled, the better for all concerned."

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The following letter appeared recently in the *Dublin Evening Telegraph* and refers to a matter which should most certainly be rectified if the facts are as stated:—

"SIR,—Mr. Thornley Stoker, in one of his letters re Dublin sanitation, says, 'I work for hours daily in the middle of a dairy-yard district, and no words are too strong for the state they are kept in.' I presume he refers to the district in which the Richmond Hospital is situated. His hours in that Hospital are from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. What would he say if he had, like the Nurses, to work there from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.—fourteen hours at a stretch! Even in a healthy atmosphere such long hours are disgraceful, but it is simply outrageous to keep girls on duty for fourteen hours in such an unsanitary place. I would like to know the mortality from zymotic diseases among the Nursing staff of the Richmond Hospital for the last five years. If the Public Health Department will not do anything for us, surely our

hours ought to be reduced so as to allow us to get a few hours' fresh air every day, and thus reduce the Dublin death-rate.—Yours faithfully, A NURSE."

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THE following important case, from the *Eastern Daily Press*, is fully dealt with, elsewhere, this week:—

"At the Norwich Police Court, on the 19th inst., Catherine Gillespie, a young woman who has just left prison, was charged with obtaining one cloak, an umbrella, a pair of gloves, pair of hose, three handkerchiefs, several collars and cuffs, a bonnet, &c., of the total value of £2 os. 10½d., from Messrs. Daniels, Cobbald & Co., St. Stephen's, on Friday, August 18th, by means of a forged order. Mr. E. Reeve prosecuted.

Ruth Cornish, an assistant to Messrs. Daniels & Cobbald, drapers, St. Stephen's, said that on Friday the prisoner came to the shop at about quarter to eleven in the morning and asked for Mr. Cobbald. He was not in at the time. Prisoner said it did not matter and produced a note (shown in court), part of which witness read. She handed the note over to Miss French, another assistant, for her to attend to.

Alice Mary French, shop assistant, deposed to receiving the note from the previous witness and reading it in prisoner's presence. It was headed 'Norfolk and Norwich Staff of Nurses, Bethel Street,' and the drift of it was that Mr. Cobbald was to supply the accused with a Nurse's uniform and any other articles she might require for her outfit to the extent of £2 10s., and was signed, 'Edith M. Watson, superintendent.' Upon the faith of that note witness allowed her to select various goods. Of these she put on the cloak, one collar, a pair of cuffs and gloves, and a pair of hose. Two handkerchiefs she put in her pocket. In departing she asked to have the bonnet sent up to the Trowel and Hammer, and said that Lady Lacon's carriage would call there later in the day, Lady Lacon being the person she was to nurse. The bonnet was to be addressed to 'Nurse Fisher.' Witness's suspicion being aroused, as she knew Lady Lacon was away, she sent to the Trowel and Hammer and Nurses' Home. After that Police-constable Freestone arrested the prisoner.

Ethel Ash, secretary, Norfolk and Norwich Staff of Nurses, 50, Bethel Street, said she was acting as Lady Superintendent in Miss Edith Watson's temporary absence. The letter produced by Police-constable Freestone was not in the handwriting of Miss E. Watson, as witness knew her writing well. During the superintendent's absence no person other than witness had power to order the goods as prisoner had stated. She gave the prisoner no such authority. Witness said that last year in April the prisoner was engaged as Nurse in one particular case. After that her name was struck off the list.

Police-constable Freestone said that yesterday at noon he went to Messrs. Daniels's shop in St. Stephen's, and there saw the prisoner. Mr. Vincent, the manager of the shop, made a communication with regard to prisoner and handed him the letter. Witness asked when Miss Watson wrote this order. Prisoner replied, 'She did not write it at all; I wrote it myself. I am very sorry this has happened. I thought if I got a Nurse's uniform I might get a situation as Nurse.' She also said that she had only come out of Mousehold Gaol that morning after doing 21 days for an offence committed at Yarmouth. The officer took her to the Police-station and charged her with the offence. He formally produced the articles mentioned in the charge.

This was the case for the prosecution. Prisoner, who had wept continually during the hearing of the evidence, had nothing to say when the charge was read. She was committed for trial at the next Assizes. In the meantime she was bailed out by her father and Mr. Clarke, the Police-court missionary. The latter has also undertaken to get her maintained at a home for young women until the trial takes place."

S. G.

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