

Her hours were from eight at night to eight in the morning, except on Sundays, when they were from ten to eight. The coroner thought that when they considered that one professional Nurse had charge of three blocks of buildings with over 200 beds, with no assistance beyond that supplied by such weakly invalids as they had seen at the previous inquest, they could not hold the Nurse responsible for such mistakes and accidents. They could not expect an overworked Nurse to do her duty. After further remarks, the jury returned a verdict of "Death from misadventure," with a recommendation that in the future poisons should be kept in distinctive bottles, and they also recommended the guardians to increase the nursing staff for night work. We refer to this subject in another column this week.

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At a meeting of the Scarborough Board, held on July 26th, the following discussion took place—we omit various non-essential matters:—

"The House Committee reported that a letter had been received by them from Sister Bower, stating that it was impossible for her, with only one assistant, to do her duty by the patients day and night, and asking for extra assistance. Sister Bower had been called before the Committee, and had entered into an explanation, after which the Committee had proceeded to consider the case and had come unanimously to the conclusion that some assistance was needed, in the interests both of the inmates and the Nurse. They therefore recommended that an extra Probationer, at a salary of £12 per annum should be advertised for.

The Chairman said the Nurse had given the Committee some startling information, and he cordially moved that the report should be adopted.

Miss Hopkins seconded, and said that additional assistance in the Infirmary had been desirable for some time.

Mr. N. Maley felt that no one would suffer if the Committee's report were referred back for further consideration, and he moved that that course should be taken. His information was from the Master of the House, and he reminded the Board that the Committee had taken the opinion of the Nurse only.

The Chairman: Let the Master stand up and speak for himself.

The Master (Mr. Metcalfe) said that it was his opinion, given privately—(The Chairman: It is given publicly now)—that at the present time the Nurse was quite able to cope with her duties, and he invited the Committee to go through the wards and ask the opinion of the doctor. Of course if the Board laid down a hard and fast line that nursing should only be done by trained Nurses, the present nursing would not be sufficient; but if the inmates were allowed to assist, the present nursing provision was adequate.

The Chairman: But is it not a fact that the doctor will not allow an inmate to give medicine?

The Master said he could not answer as to that.

The Chairman said there were now 70 people in the Infirmary and only one Nurse and a Probationer.

Mr. Dale said he should support the amendment if it was to have the report referred back for the purpose of having two additional Probationers instead of one.

Mrs. Hodgson, the Matron, was called into the room, and in answer to questions she said she thought there was need for more help in the Nursing. It was the doctor's instruction that no medicine should be given to patients by paupers. It was true that the Nurse had been on duty for twenty hours at a stretch, and she had to get up in the night to give medicine.

The Chairman said he should not like to lay before the Board, except in committee, the facts that had been put before the House Committee. There was no one to sit up with the patients at night.

Mr. Coe said there had been many more inmates in the infirmary than there were that morning, and yet there had been just the same nursing provision.

The Vice-Chairman, in explanation of his part in the amendment, said that people in a Workhouse Infirmary did not require so much Nursing as was given in a Hospital; they came—and he was sorry to say it—to die and to rest, not to be nursed.

Miss Thompson said she went round the Infirmary every week and spoke to the occupant of every bed, and more nursing was required. People, even if they were dying, wanted a good deal of attention, and they could not keep people dying alone in the night. She strongly felt that more nursing was required. (Hear, hear.)

The Chairman said that during all the time he had been on the Board he had never felt more strongly on any subject.

The Vice-Chairman requested Mr. Maley to withdraw his amendment, and this having been done, the Chairman's resolution was carried."

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We are glad to see that the lady Guardians took the only humane view which was possible, and expressed their opinions much to the point—as might have been expected. To permit their Infirmary Nurse to be on duty day and night or even 20 hours at a stretch—to let their sick, even if they are paupers, die alone and neglected, even if they do enter the Infirmary "only to die," and to consider that one Nurse and a probationer, or even two Probationers at a salary of £12 per annum, can possibly attend to 70 sick people, shows a disgraceful state either of ignorance or inhumanity, of which we cannot doubt the people of Scarborough must feel heartily ashamed; but for which, now it is brought to their knowledge, they must be considered individually and collectively responsible. We earnestly hope, therefore, that they will insist upon a trained Nurse being appointed as Matron, and being made responsible to the doctors for the nursing of the sick, and that she shall be given at least two trained Nurses for day and one for night duty, with the same number of Probationers.

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In the last issue of the *Trained Nurse*, our American contemporary, we find the following significant "par":—

"A joint meeting of representatives of the Garfield, Columbia and Children's Hospitals was held recently at the Garfield Hospital to consider a plan for consolidating the Nurses' training schools of the three institutions. For several years past each of these Hospitals has had a Nurses' training department of its own, where the Nurses coming into the institution were given practical instruction, combined with lectures and clinical study. Two years ago the Columbia and Children's Hospitals arranged to exchange their pupils, giving students in either hospital the benefit of practice in the other. The first of the classes that went through this two-year course was graduated at Columbia Hospital last summer, and the result was such an improvement over the old plan of separate training that the meeting was held with a view to taking Garfield, which is a General Hospital, into the training circuit with the two special institutions."

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