

In a report submitted to a previous meeting of the Board, Dr. Stansfield stated that "in several cases temperature charts were found to be unreliable, diets to the patients had been altered, and, generally speaking, the Nursing was not as efficient as it ought to be, and too much reliance was put on Nurses who were inexperienced."

When it became known that this Report had been submitted to the Board, the Workhouse Nurses wrote a letter protesting against the implication on them, whereupon Dr. Stansfield very properly explained that the complaints he made were not against the Nurses personally, but against the *system*. A suggestion was made that "a certificated attendant"—whatever that may mean!—be appointed, capable of training the Nurses and controlling the Workhouse staff.

Instead of acting on this excellent recommendation, the Board made a party and personal question of the matter, and decided on the Chairman's motion that "they should have the persons implicated by Dr. Stansfield's report before them, so as to hear both sides," which puts Dr. Stansfield in the uncomfortable position of appearing to have placed the Nurses "in the dock," whereas his intention was to substitute a *system* of training which would be of the utmost benefit both to patients and staff.

We have no word to say against the *South London Press*. On the contrary, it appears to be an excellent paper—until it undertakes Nursing articles. The ubiquitous staff undertakes to criticise politics, costers' grievances, vestry matters, and School Board rates. And this they do very well, but Nursing is beyond their ken. We would suggest, during the troubles at St. Olave's, that a Nursing Editor might be added to the staff, so as to deal with the question from a professional point of view. This Nurse Editor would have ruthlessly drawn her pen through much of a recent article in the *South London Press*, headed "Guardians and Matrons," especially when it states that "things proceeded pretty smoothly until Miss Evans sought to interfere in regard to the appointment of a probationer;" and further on "Miss Evans was most successful in inducing an impression among the Guardians that she desired unnecessarily to obtrude herself into what is regarded as essentially the prerogative of the Board."

It would be a sorry day in the Hospital world were it to be considered "interference" on the part of a Matron to have a voice in the appointment of probationers, and were an interest in the Nursing staff to be characterised as

"obtrusion." The *South London Press* speaks in terms of withering contempt of a "predominant Matron," but it seems to us that a Matron to be worthy of the name should be "predominant" in her own Nursing department—subject, of course, to the authority of a Board of Guardians, who should form, as it were, a Higher Court of Appeal, whose machinery should be put in force when necessary.

We read with sympathy the correspondence started by Dr. Corbyn in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, concerning the "Intolerable Nuisance" of the licence conceded to street noises, and can testify to the almost maddening effect of German bands, Italian organ grinders, hawkers and vagabonds of home and foreign production, upon sick persons. The stolid indifference of the police to any complaint made against these tormentors of respectable citizens greatly aggravates the nuisance. Drawing the attention of a lordly "blue-bottle" one day to the rancorous yells of a forbidding looking female, who having hitched her leg on to a stilt, was hobbling along openly begging—because bawling for pence is breaking the law in an aggravated form—I questioned what he would do if I proceeded to follow her example.

"Well mum, I should have to run you in, 'cos of your clothes."

We may well talk of one law for the rich and another for the poor!

An Irish correspondent says: "I was glad to see you touched again on the question of the untrained Nursing performed by Roman Catholic Sisters. Here the solution of the problem of raising the Nursing standard is so much further off than with you. In Ireland we have less money, more prejudices, and endless complications arising out of religious questions. The Roman Catholic Sister, although many of them are most devoted and extremely kind, can never be equal to the trained Nurse as you understand the term. She is hampered so much by religious obligations and restrictions; she is so often absent from the wards performing devotional exercises, and so much difficulty arises to prevent her from giving the care to the male patients which they really need. So that unless the Orders are to move with the times and introduce some secular common sense into their Nursing methods they will have to be entirely superseded by lay Nurses."

We regret to have again to allude to the fact that women of depraved character frequent the West End streets in Nurses' dress. Surely there is some means by which the police could prevent such a scandalous misuse of Nursing uniform.

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