

valuable officer. Having a good officer they ought to keep her. She had the charge of 55 imbeciles, and a much more onerous part than that of the head male attendant. The Chairman said stress had been laid on the fact that the Nurse had been with them seven years, but for four years she was Assistant Nurse, and was then raised to the post of Head Nurse, when her salary was increased to £30. He thought the male attendant had the most troublesome task, though he had fewer to look after, because they had nothing to do. Mr. Rose (to the Chairman): Which would you rather do—look after two men or one lady? (Loud laughter.) He (Mr. Rose) would rather have the man's place 10 to 1 than the woman's. (Laughter.) On being put to the vote the motion was rejected by 21 to 17.

It certainly is an original view to take of the question, that because the male attendant had fewer to look after, therefore he had the most troublesome task. We would suggest that the gentleman should spend a few days in charge of 55 imbeciles. There is nothing like practical proof, and we venture to think after one day's such experience he would come to the conclusion that the labour in such work was well worthy of the hire of £35 a year—especially after seven years' service.

At the Glasgow Royal Infirmary there is a very pleasant custom of a New Year's meeting between the Managers and the Nursing Staff. This year it took place at 11 a.m. in the Dispensary; Lord Provost, Sir James Bell presiding, and opening the proceedings by wishing a Happy New Year and prosperity to the Nursing Staff and expressing on behalf of the Directors their high appreciation of their services and of their loyal and cordial co-operation in the work of the Infirmary.

Professor Gairdner said:—

The infirmary did an immense amount of good by actual cure of disease, medical assistance, and the kind attention of the Nurses during the actual sick period; but what one was apt to lose sight of was that it did good beyond that in the example it held out to the whole community in an Institution conducted on such ideal principles—ideal cleanliness, propriety, and decorum, and the care and love for the sick shown on every turn. The influences of love and good feeling carried into the work of curing the sick must produce great things in the households of those who received benefits. From that point of view the work of the Nurses was of peculiar value, and ought to be held up and appreciated in an assembly like that. Every one of the Nurses, altogether outside of what might be called her technical duties, had an example to show that would tell in unknown

and indescribable ways on the homes of the poor who received the benefit of the Institution. (Applause.)

Baillie Dick referred to the high status of Nurses employed in such institutions, and impressed upon those who were devoting themselves to that kind of work the desirability of maintaining this high standard.

COMPLAINTS as to the mismanagement of Irish Infirmarys and Local Government enquiries seem to have no end. The Cookstown enquiry into alleged mismanagement during the typhus fever outbreak revealed a most unsatisfactory state of affairs. A young girl named Quin, after being in the Hospital as patient, was appointed attendant. She was only 16 years of age. Nurse M'Kitterick, of the Belfast Nurses' Home, deposed that the wards were very cold and dirty, and the air impure. She also complained that the remains of a patient who died were kept in the ward from Wednesday morning till Friday, and another corpse two nights and a day. Altogether, it appears to be high time that the Local Government Board should interpose.

MISS ANNIE SMEDLEY was appointed Charge Nurse, not Night Superintendent at the Western Hospital, Fulham, as we inadvertently stated in a recent number.

SISTER EVELYN MAY LEICESTER, of the Indian Nursing Service died on January 1st, at the early age of 28, from enteric fever, contracted whilst in discharge of her duties at the Station Hospital, Allahabad. A very large number of "the noble army of Nurses" yearly sacrifice their lives in the discharge of their duty—just as do our soldiers, our sailors and firemen. And no doubt this is one of the reasons why Nurses are held in such high public estimation.

A VERY sad affair took place last week in the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, resulting in the death of a Nurse. Nurse Shaw, of No. 17 ward, feeling unwell, took a dose of castor oil, and mixed it with what she at the moment believed to be lemon juice, but which unfortunately proved to be carbolic acid, which she herself had set aside for use in the ward. Remedies were immediately applied, but the shock to her system resulted in death within a quarter of an hour after the corrosive had been taken. The Nurse, who was only 23 years old, had been for several years in the Infirmary. The utmost sympathy is felt with her family and with her *fiancé*, a clergyman, to whom she was shortly to be married.

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