

matters at the General Hospital, Birmingham, during the time Mr. Grant was House Governor, it must be borne in mind that it is ten years since he left the Hospital. We are aware that the whole organisation of the Hospital is now on a modernised basis, and under the present officers, the management, both in the secretarial and Nursing departments, is worthy of all praise.

AT the Hackney Board of Guardians, once more, the necessity of providing better accommodation for the Infirmary Nurses was brought before the Board, as the Nurses complained of having to live out of the Infirmary. Mr. Beurle, one of the Guardians, said he hoped they would be able to remedy this soon. As a matter of fact, when the arrangement had been first made it was done because the Board thought their Nurses would appreciate the greater freedom which was thereby given to them. They had discovered, however, since that there were a good many disadvantages to the plan.

It seems curious that the Board expected their Nurses to appreciate the "greater freedom" of living out. If proper discipline is maintained, living out does not give "greater freedom," and anyway, it is derogatory to the Nurses to suggest they would indulge in little runs out when they were supposed to be safe in their quarters. The Nurses by their action in asking for different arrangements have shown that they are quite dignified enough not to take advantage of the so-called "greater freedom."

THE *British Medical Journal* has invented a new disorder, "matutinal mania," which it has given to the species of mental derangement which Dr. S. Talcott, of New York, declares is induced by the deplorable habit of getting up too early in the morning. We have never yet met with this disease among Nurses, who are certainly, as a class, guilty of very early rising tendencies. Dr. Talcott avers that early rising induces much insanity among farmers, but adds that their excessive consumption of pie and potatoes may increase the tendency!

THE Bedford Board of Guardians recently appointed a thoroughly trained Nurse, but at the last meeting a letter was read from her stating that when she accepted the position she was not aware that she would have to

take her meals with the servants and superintend the sewing. She consequently begged to resign. Dr. Phillips upheld her action, and said they had no right to expect a thoroughly trained Nurse to take meals with the servants, clean her own bedroom, and superintend sewing.

THE *Daily Graphic* inserts a heart-rending leaderette entitled "Hungry Hospital Nurses!" in which it calls attention to the fact that Nurses being compelled by the exigencies of their professional duties to turn night into day, a corresponding change takes place in the disposition of their meals. It appears that some three months since the authorities of the Swansea Hospital gave instructions that the night Nurses who are on duty from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. should be supplied with a "substantial meal" during the night.

Now the term is unfortunate and decidedly elastic in its meaning. We are reminded of the somewhat vulgar distinction drawn in some of the Western States of America restaurants, which leads to the display in their windows of notices, "A meal," so much; "A square meal," a "big gorge," these all being on a crescendo scale of payment, calculated to a nicety to prevent "mine host" from being imposed upon. But, apparently, the meals at the Swansea Hospital do not deserve to come even under the first heading, as it seems, on one occasion at least, that two sausages had to be divided between four ("hungry"?) Nurses. Now half a sausage cannot fairly be translated as constituting a "substantial meal" and the matter is now occupying the attention of the Committee of Management, and it is hoped in the interests of Nurses with appetites, that some more liberal and definite rendering of the word "substantial" will be insisted upon.

IT is very gratifying to note the progress in Nursing methods which is being made in Scotland. At the East Poorhouse Hospital, Dundee, with an accommodation of 321 beds the method of training is admirable. It consists of the now usual course of three years, which includes obstetric training, each Probationer being required to attend not less than forty cases of confinement during her training. This constitutes a very valuable addition to the normal course. Probationer Nurses may leave the service of the Hospital

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)