

A CROWDED meeting of Nurses was held at Grosvenor House on Friday afternoon under the auspices of the Women's Total Abstinence Union. Lady Elizabeth Biddulph presided. A paper written by Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson, who was prevented by illness from attending, was read by Miss Docwra. Sir Benjamin declared that of all classes Nurses were most in need of protection from alcohol, and that nothing did so much to preserve their efficiency and good looks as total abstinence. He advocated the establishment of a Temperance Nurses' Pension Fund, to be supported by the public as well as the Nurses themselves. Mr. W. S. Caine, in supporting a vote of thanks to the Duke of Westminster for allowing the gathering to take place at Grosvenor House, urged that there was no greater delusion than the old superstition that Nurses' duties especially required alcohol. Sir William Gull, Sir Henry Thompson, and other leading men of the medical faculty had averred that it would be deleterious to the delicacy of touch required of them, and would unfit them for the strain of their profession, were they to take alcohol. The late Sir Andrew Clarke had also stated as his conviction that seven out of every ten cases in Hospitals were there in consequence of the use of alcohol.

THE Bridgwater Board of Guardians have actually displayed a little originality in their views on Nursing, and have shown a wonderful sense of their responsibility to their ratepayers by going seriously into the question of the necessity that would arise in the event of a pauper being promoted to the position of Nurse of "giving her extra tea and other advantages." But it is a pity not to quote these enterprising gentlemen. The discussion as follows took place when a letter was read from the Local Government Board recommending the appointment of a second Nurse.

The Chairman said he knew when this matter was discussed last time the Board did not see that they required an extra Nurse.

Mr. Barham thought it would be a good plan to take one of the younger paupers in the house and bring her on as a Nurse. Of course, it would mean giving her extra tea and other advantages, but they would be saving £20 a year salary, which they would have to give a Nurse.

The expression to take in a pauper and "bring her on" as a Nurse, forms an admirable contribution to the "humours of some Boards of Guardians on Nursing questions"—a book on which should assuredly one day be brought out.

THE Holborn Board of Guardians recently passed a resolution that no officers be supplied

with uniform until they had been in the service of the Union for three months. That motion, so far as the Nurses are concerned, has been rescinded, Mr. Miller justly remarking that it was unfair to ask the Nurses to wear their own clothing for so long a period. He instanced the case of a male official in another Union, who claimed and obtained one guinea as compensation for providing his own clothing during a probationary period.

Mr. Howes opposed the suggestion of supplying uniforms to Nurses before they had been three months in the wards. He said "that many officers left soon after getting their uniforms, and then there was a difficulty in suiting other people with them." It was brought out that the Matron utilised old uniforms so far as practicable.

AT the York Infirmary a staff of three day-Nurses is appointed to take charge of about 180 patients, a proportion which is far too much below the recognised modern standard to admit of proper care being given to the sick.

DR. HAYES has a very nice new little theatre for abdominal operations in the new front of the Royal Free Hospital, and the theatre communicates with Boys Ward, in which Dr. Hayes has eight beds.

The women students of the Royal Free are looking forward with much enthusiasm and interest to the bacteriological department which is to be soon started.

The ward Services carried on by the women students continue to be much appreciated by the patients, the demand exceeding the supply. In the January number of the *London School of Medicine for Women Magazine* (could not the name of this admirable journal be shortened?), an appeal is made for more singers, more violinists, and more students to speak at these bright Sunday morning services. As a student says, "It is very desirable to give the patients something better to feed their minds on during Sunday than what they gather from *Lloyd's Weekly* and *Snap Shots*."

DR. PIERCE takes great interest in the Nurses of the York Retreat Insane Asylum, and is much in favour of the erection of a Nurses' Home. He says: "The need of improved accommodation for the Nursing staff has been long felt. There appears no alternative but to build a Nurses' Home in order to provide rooms for the use of Nurses at such times as they can be spared from their duties in the wards. A

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