

peasantry is so low that they probably have not realised the full extremity of the drawbacks, nor the extraordinary absence of Nursing assistance, in their Workhouses. Then, again, the resident landlords of Ireland, owing to the many financial troubles of their distressful country, are not able, perhaps, even if they were willing, to incur the great pecuniary cost consequent upon a more efficient administration of the Poor Law Service, such as is imposed on the people of this country with comparatively little thought and borne with more or less equanimity.

The reports of our contemporary, read in the light of these important facts, show a most remarkable absence of any provision for the Nursing of the sick in the great majority of the Workhouse Infirmaries of Ireland. They prove that there is an equally remarkable absence of all sanitary or scientific appliances; and in short, as our contemporary puts it, "in domestic administration these Workhouses are possessed of the manners and customs of sixty years ago. Though the hands of the clock of the country have moved on, those on the dial of the Poor Law stand where they did when they were set in the year 1839. The law is altogether out of harmony with the condition of the people to whose needs it is supposed to minister."

The recommendations made by our contemporary as the result of its investigations are excellent—as far as they go. Briefly, they are as follows:—(a) The recognition of the trained Nurse as an official. At present the Nurse is not even named in the general orders; (b) the removal of the lunatic class from the care of the Guardians in the country districts, and their classification in the large towns under officers specially selected and trained for the work; (c) the relaxation of the rule of locking up at night those inmates who are aged, infirm and sick; and (d) the relaxation of the prison-like discipline, with leave-days at stated intervals for the well-conducted among the aged and infirm." Finally, our contemporary refers to a matter which will be found to be at the root of much of the present inefficiency, when it suggests the appointment of better classes of persons to the posts of Master and Matron.

In our judgment, the only reforms which will be satisfactory in Irish or any other British Workhouses will be the separation of the sick into separate wards or Infirmaries, and the organisation of these on the lines of

general Hospital management. The Master of the Workhouse should be an educated professional man, and the Matron should be a trained Nurse. The position of each officer should be well defined, and their respective duties distinctly separated. We believe that not only would such appointments lead to greater efficiency in the conduct of our Workhouses, but that it would also prove to be much more economical than the present plan. The sick would not only recover more rapidly than they do at present, but they would, therefore, cease to remain for long periods of time as burdens on the ratepayers, and thus very often, also, their families would not become claimants for Poor Law relief. Much of the waste which now occurs in Workhouses would be prevented if the administration were controlled by less ignorant persons than the present class of officials. The first cost of the erection of new and improved Workhouses, containing adequate sick wards, is the great difficulty which we foresee in the institution of reforms; but this is a matter of such great importance, that the assistance of the Government might fairly be asked for and given. If State aid is desirable in any national work, and if it is remunerative in any national undertaking, it surely would be both when the health of the people and the diminution of pauperism are the ends to be attained.

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## Lectures on Elementary Physiology in relation to Medical Nursing.

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### LECTURE III.—THE DIGESTIVE ORGANS.

(Continued from page 351.)

**B**Y this means, the blood of the general circulation is filtered from its sugar, and is thus prevented from becoming too loaded with this material, as would otherwise be the case after a heavy meal. There is, however, always a certain amount of sugar in the blood, and as this is used up, it is generally believed that the glycogen in the liver is turned into sugar once more, and is then carried off in the general circulation, to be conveyed to the tissues which need this form of

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