

If a sick Guardian were obliged to share the attentions of an unskilled nurse of sixty with 132 other persons, we fancy his views of what constitutes efficient nursing would change considerably, and that he would think that something besides *watching* was necessary. The jury returned a verdict of "accidentally suffocated, and added a rider that "three or four more night nurses were necessary to look after the patients." We hope that all these nurses will be skilled and certificated. We do not know if the present night nurse is "pretty," but she is certainly not "young," and as it has been conclusively proved that she is not over-educated, perhaps Lady Priestley or Mrs. Clare Goslett would find employment for her.

WE quote in full an interesting letter received by Dr. Joseph Smyth of Naas, from Sir Christopher Nixon, and sent by the former gentleman to the press:—

"I would wish to see workhouses, as a whole, under the charge of religious communities, who would, of course, be subject to the control of the local authority. The infirmary should be taken charge of by such nuns or sisters who had received training as nurses in a general hospital, or who had been specially trained for a fixed period by a certificated and highly trained hospital nurse. These nuns, or sisters so educated in nursing, would be quite equal to taking charge of the great majority of cases occurring in Poor Law hospitals. But for special cases, and, he adds, for all those cases that are objectionable or forbidden to the nuns, comprising work that cannot be left undone, there should be at least one highly trained lay nurse who, besides her nursing duties, would be required to train one or more probationers, who would in turn assist her in both day and night duty." While "preferring to put the sick poor under the care of religious rather than lay nurses," he says, "but I hold very strongly that before the former undertake the duty of nursing that they should be trained as I before referred to."

As regards pauper 'nursing,' Sir Christopher writes—"I am most thoroughly in accord with you that pauper 'nursing' should be abolished, and I do not think any reasonable person can object to the strong language which you use in condemning it."

We are glad to note that the views which we advanced a short time since in the *NURSING RECORD* are practically endorsed by a gentleman whose opinion carries as much weight as does that of Sir Christopher Nixon. We cannot, however, concede that any nurses, be they religious or secular, should be unable to attend to any cases needing their care because they are "objectionable." If this be actually the case, then we think that the nuns make a mistake in considering that they have a nursing vocation. But we feel sure that the heads of religious houses will realise that all the necessary attentions to the sick which can be performed by a

woman at all, can with equal suitability be performed by nuns. We are fully in accord with Sir Christopher Nixon in his view that the poor law infirmaries afford work for fully qualified religious sisters, for which their devotion to the interests of the poor, and their desire for their well-being, especially qualifies them, and we should be glad to see facilities afforded by our large hospitals to religious sisters to acquire the training which is an indispensable preliminary to the responsible position of charge nurse in a workhouse infirmary.

THE *Trained Nurse* gives the following interesting particulars concerning the Alien Contract Law in connection with Canadian probationers:—

"The Secretary of the Treasury has made an application of the Alien Labour law to the training schools of this country, which is causing some of the hospitals—especially those on the borders of Canada—no little anxiety. A recent decision of the Department given to the Immigrant Inspector at West Superior, Wis., advises that St. Luke's Hospital, Duluth, cannot admit to its training school Canadian probationers if it pay them for their services. At the same time, the secretary holds that those who have already been trained in American schools, and who have certificates are of the excepted class, inasmuch as they belong to a recognised profession.

The invidious distinction of the ruling of the secretary is, that while the law applies to nurses, it does not apply to other hospital attendants. It appears, according to these recent rulings, that probationers are semi-professional, and come within the provisions of the Alien Contract law, which extends its proscription to all Canadians who come to this country to get their training in our hospitals, but it does not apply to Canadian nurses who have graduated. They are already upon a professional standing. In a word, the law is not retroactive.

Under its instructions, the Inspectors of Immigration in all the border towns, Buffalo, Rochester, Duluth, and Chicago, have been advised to secure a complete list of all Canadian nurses in the several institutions which come under their jurisdiction. No present probationers will be deported, we are officially informed, but the list of them is to be kept so as to have a check upon any who might hereafter come to this country.

The question is a serious one to American hospitals. Practically, there are more Canadian nurses in the country than American to-day, two to one, and this is so because there is so little professional work in Canada for the better class of women, and nursing as a profession is not looked upon there as in England, because in the mother country royalty has set its seal upon it.

Whether the ruling of the secretary be popular or not, whether it is equitable in the sense that it rules against nurses while admitting other hospital attendants, it certainly will do no injustice to those Canadian friends of ours who have made their home and received their professional training here, while it will open the way to the great body of American womanhood to enter the breach of this ever-widening profession."

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