

**Annotations.**

**DANCES AND DOMINOES.**

MR. CROOKS' long-deferred motion in favour of an eight hours' shift for asylum attendants working in the Institutions under the control of the London County Council, was considered at a recent meeting. It was admitted that some of the attendants were on duty fourteen hours a day, and that their work was of a very responsible and trying description; and he quoted the present nursing arrangements of King's College Hospital in support of his resolution. The motion was opposed on the ground of its impracticability, Mr. N. W. Hubbard mentioning that the change would entail an annual increase of 1115 in the staff, and a cost of £70,000. Mr. John Burns strongly supported the much-to-be-desired reforms, but Mr. McDougal painted the life of an asylum attendant as quite *couleur de rose*, incidentally informing the meeting that the attendants had recreation during the day, winding up with cards, dances, and dominoes in the evening. The County Council ultimately passed a resolution preening themselves upon past progress, and refusing Mr. Crooks' motion by a large majority. The pictures painted by both sides, that of fourteen hours' daily hard labour, and the garish delights of dances and dominoes, are equally objectionable. We hope, therefore, that Mr. Crooks will take steps to bring before the public the unjustifiable conditions under which asylum attendants under the London County Council are employed. The truth is, male asylum attendants have no votes, and, like women, it is safe for municipal and parliamentary representatives to ignore their interests.

**THE DOWNPATRICK UNION.**

THE Local Government Board inquiry, which has just taken place, concerning the administration of the Downpatrick Union, reveals a disgraceful lack of humanity upon the part of some of its officials. The treatment of two poor creatures, James and Mary Wylie, suffering from typhoid fever, and since dead, has been the cause of the inquiry. It appears that these sick people were ordered into the workhouse, and that M. Coubrey, the driver of the "cart" which fetched them to the institution, absolutely refused to help the female nurses to remove these two helpless patients into the wards, as he was not paid for such work, and he had instructions from the master that the female nurses were to carry in the patients. From the evidence of Nurse FitzSimons, who ultimately, after much delay, with the help of a man called

Quinn, carried the patients from the cart up into the wards, it is evident that the management of the Downpatrick Workhouse is devoid of organisation, decency, and humanity. The master and matron have evidently very little control over the inmates, and from the support of the master to the driver M. Coubrey, in his inhuman refusal to assist in carrying helpless patients, it would appear that the male servants are not subject to proper control. We are glad to notice that in the doctor's evidence he considered that the patients were well treated by the nurses. It is to be sincerely hoped that Dr. Clibborn, the medical inspector of the Local Government Board, will advise immediate reform in the management of this institution.

**A PROTEST FROM THE COLONIES.**

THOSE who met, and were charmed with the original personality of, Miss Marie Herzog at the Nursing Exhibition last summer will be pleased to hear that she has arrived safely at the Bathurst Hospital, New South Wales—of which institution she is matron—much refreshed after her eight months' holiday. She writes: "I have only just received my NURSING RECORD of the 26th December, and I am truly sorry that I am not able to send in my protest by the 7th of January against the Registration of Asylum Attendants as Trained Nurses by the Royal British Nurses' Association. Every trained nurse should make a stand against it; it seems so very unfair. The asylum attendants out here are of a much less educated class than the nurses, and are certainly by no means trained. Surely the Royal British Nurses' Association will never be able to carry such a scheme; the result would inevitably be harmful for the future of nursing. You must feel very deeply about it, considering the great interest you take in the true welfare of nurses, and I sincerely hope with you that this matter may be settled in a just and right way. If this letter should be in time to protest against this most unjust step of the Royal British Nurses' Association, please have my signature affixed." The opinion of Miss Marie Herzog, who was trained and worked at St. Thomas's Hospital for six years, and who, as matron of the Bathurst Hospital for the last ten years, has gained for herself such wide respect and affection, will, we feel sure, be shared by all her trained colleagues in the Colony.

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