

therefore, that the candidates for the post of matron in our workhouses should be drawn from the educated classes, and that they should be able to produce, as an essential qualification, a certificate of three years' hospital training, as they cannot adequately supervise the nurses who should certainly be under their control if they are entirely ignorant of the duties required of the nursing staff, and of the manner in which these duties should be performed.

THE Managing Committee of the Royal Hospital for Incurables, Dublin, have decided to give their staff nurses an increase of salary of £5 a year, in honour of the Queen's Jubilee, and also an extra week's holiday.

This hospital has been celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen in a most hospitable and loyal manner. Two thousand invitations were issued by Miss Burt, the Lady Superintendent, to a garden party on June 10th, and very many accepted the invitation. The expenses connected with the entertainment were defrayed by Mr. William Fry, Sen., the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors, and one of the most steadfast and generous supporters of the hospital. At mid-day, 138 out of the 204 patients who were strong enough to leave their beds, were entertained at dinner, also by Mr. Fry. Each of the patients was presented with a coloured picture of the Queen in a gilt frame, and a medallion having in the centre a portrait of Her Majesty. After the garden party, Miss Burt entertained at dinner the Lady Superintendents and nurses of the principal Dublin hospitals. Mr. Fry presided, and proposed the toast of "The Queen," which was received with the greatest enthusiasm. The toasts of the ladies and officials of the institution, coupled with the names of Miss Burt, Lady Superintendent, Dr. Houghton, Medical Officer, and Mr. Grey, were also drunk. Subsequently, a concert for the patients was held in the men's day-room, and the general festivities were kept up until the evening was well advanced. It may not be possible for many hospitals to keep open house to the same extent as the Royal Hospital for Incurables, Donnybrook, but it has, we think, set an example which other institutions will do well to imitate, though they may not be able to emulate it.

The history of this hospital is an interesting one, it having been founded in the year 1744. It was originally opened in Fleet Street, and continued there until 1792, when it was moved to Donnybrook. In the Jubilee year, 1887, the foundation-stone of the Victoria Jubilee Wing was laid by the late Prince Albert Victor of Wales. The nursing organisation has attained

its present standard of efficiency since the appointment of the present lady superintendent. Miss Burt has made many reforms, one of the most important being the introduction of thoroughly-trained staff nurses. The success of this new department is demonstrated by the fact which we chronicled above; that the Governors so highly appreciate the services of these nurses that they have determined to raise their salaries henceforth.

A COMPLAINT was recently made at a meeting of the Belfast Board of Guardians against Nurse Craig, the Superintendent Nurse, "for having refused Nurse McKenna leave of absence to go and visit a sick friend who had since died." The chairman said such conduct was "cruel and inhuman," and ultimately a vote of censure was passed upon Nurse Craig, and conveyed to her in writing.

The facts of the case, which we do not think can have been fully laid before the Guardians, we are informed, are briefly that Nurse McKenna asked for three days leave of absence to visit some friends who had arrived in consequence of the death of her cousin. Miss Craig told her that she could not spare her for so long just then, as so many nurses were off duty ill, and the patients must be attended to. The nurse then asked for one day, and Miss Craig told her she would try to spare her for one day provided that the Master would grant the leave of absence. The nurse then said that she had spoken to the Master already, and he was willing that she should have three days, upon which Miss Craig told her she might go back to the Master, and declined to discuss the subject further.

We understand that the nurse in applying to the Guardians for leave of absence, which was granted, stated that her probationer could do the work in her absence. This entailed taking charge of a ward of sixty patients, many of whom were acute chest cases. On a former occasion, when remonstrated with as to the careless way in which her work was performed, Nurse McKenna's excuse was that there was so much to be done that it was impossible to do it properly. Apparently "circumstances alter cases." We feel sure that all superintendents of nurses will feel that Miss Craig was only performing her duty to the institution, for the efficient nursing of which she is responsible, in refusing the leave of absence. We cannot think that any nurse who cared about her work or her patients would ask for it under the circumstances we have described.

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