

A LETTER was recently received by the Strand Board of Guardians, from the night nurse at Bear Yard, resigning her post on the ground that, since she had entered their service, she had not had an hour's proper sleep, as it was impossible to sleep in the daytime on account of the disturbing noises about Bear Yard. Mr. Belchier said he was not surprised; all the night nurses at Bear Yard resigned for the same reason. It would be interesting to know how long this resignation of night nurses has been going on, and what steps are being taken to ensure quiet quarters for them. When an old and respected member of the Board, like Mr. Belchier, makes such a statement as we have quoted above, we cannot but believe that the grievance of the nurses will be inquired into and rectified. We are aware that a certain proportion of the general public believe that nurses are "trained to do without" food or sleep, but surely Guardians should know that nurses are subject to the same limitations as ordinary mortals, and that they cannot work well without proper rest.

THE *Liverpool Mercury* says :

"It is hardly characteristic of wealthy Liverpool that the project of setting up in our midst a nursing institution in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee should hang fire through lack of subscriptions. Close upon £24,000 have already been handed to the treasurers, but £6,000 are yet needed to make the fund practical for the purposes in view. At a gathering of the members of the General Committee, at the Town Hall, several propositions which the inventors thought would tend to swell the list were propounded, but surely the simple statement of the scheme and the benefits it would confer for all time should be sufficient to arouse the public to its interest and importance."

This is not like Liverpool, which in nursing matters has always taken such an active and progressive attitude. We have no doubt the £6,000 will soon be forthcoming.

MISS KEELING, for nine years nurse at the Stone Union, who has obtained an important post under the Stoke Union, has been presented by the Stone Union Ladies' Visiting Committee with a valuable marble clock in recognition of her faithful discharge of duty.

It is interesting to note that with the inauguration of a National Association of American graduate nurses, for their own protection and that of the public, the little rift appears within the lute. American nurses are greatly shocked at the friction which exists in the English nursing world. We can only hope that they will be permitted to associate themselves

into a strong and united body without the interference of self-interested persons; but we doubt it.

SPEAKING editorially on the subject of alien nurses, the *Trained Nurse* says:—

"On reading an account of the order given not long since at the Rochester City Hospital, debarring Canadian women from receiving instruction in that institution, these ideas were suggested: A law that would shut out Canadian women from United States training schools for nurses seems at first glance too absurd and unnecessary for one to believe that such a law really exists. And it is extremely doubtful, if it does exist, if it would stand the test in this case. 'It is stated in justification of this rule that nursing is not a profession, but a trade.' But why, we should ask, is nursing not a profession, since a profession is declared to be 'a vocation in which a professed knowledge of some department of science or learning is used by its practical application to the affairs of others.' What could possibly be more to the point? Nursing as it is taught to-day, is taught on the most scientific principles, and is in every sense educational, and its practical application to the affairs of others is certainly beyond dispute.

But setting this argument aside, a thing that seems so like petty tyranny can hardly be submitted to without protest. A law that can be so manipulated and so easily circumvented as these United States immigration inspectors informed the hospital authorities at Rochester this could be, is not worthy a place on our statute-books, and if it is there every effort should be made to have it repealed, or at least modified without delay. If our common law is, as a great English jurist pronounced it to be, 'the perfection of wisdom,' and if 'common sense lies beneath the construction of every enactment,' there must be some reason for this seeming injustice to our cousins over the border. Some one has asserted that with Canadian girls, nursing is a fad. This certainly is not a strong argument in their favour, but the most of them would, we think, disclaim anything so trivial in their motives.

As a class, and we speak with profoundest regard for our own country-women, Canadian women who have graduated from our training schools have made exceptionally good nurses, many of them taking places of trust as superintendents of hospitals and training schools, and in so doing have rendered good service to the country of their adoption. As all laws are framed for the protection of personal rights, the question is naturally suggested, is this law debarring Canadian women from entering our training schools necessary in order to protect the rights of our American-born women? The question is an open one, and an important one, and if we find by investigation that American women are being crowded out of our schools by this predominance of a foreign element, a somewhat different face is put upon the matter. One thing we may be confident of, however, that when this matter is looked into in all its bearings, and the true interpretation of the law understood, justice will come to the rescue, and the rights of all will be recognised.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)