

subscribers' tickets. While fully agreeing with the principle that the poor should, so far as they are able, pay for the benefits they receive, we doubt if there are many persons, who value their independence sufficiently, to insist upon paying for that which is at present frequently provided for nothing.

THAT there is friction in the nursing department of the Cardiff Infirmary is evident, and the nurses cannot have much belief in their matron's regard for their interests when they act in the manner recently described in the local press. Apparently the matron, Miss Wilson, has been granted an extension of leave this year, and Miss Wilson has also advised that the servants should have extra holiday. The nurses, therefore, consider that they should have extra leave, and intimated to the matron that they were going to ask for a week's extra holiday, and one day off each month. As the nurses at present only have from two to three weeks' holiday, we are of opinion that their demand is a just one, as no nurses or probationers should have less than a month's holiday annually, even more if the institutions to which they are attached can afford it; but the means which they took to obtain their demands were wrong. Undoubtedly the senior nurses should have approached the matron, who is their official head, and asked her to lay their wishes before the Committee. Discipline must be upheld, and under the circumstances the Committee were, we think, bound to support their matron, but the fact that the nurses did not as a matter of course adopt this measure, shows how little confidence they have in the desire to further their interests.

AT a recent meeting of the Devonport Guardians attention was drawn by the medical officer (Mr. F. Everard Row) to the circumstances under which the two chief nurses had resigned. He said: "Nearly every member of the Board had recognised and appreciated the value of the two nurses who were about to leave them. Every patient without exception had expressed nothing but gratitude for the treatment received. The Local Government Board Inspector at his last visit made the remark that the Infirmary seemed to be well managed, and he (the Medical Officer) as occasion required, officially reported several times that the work was conscientiously done, and to his entire satisfaction."

This would seem to be an unusually satisfactory state of things, but the doctor goes on to say that the superintendent nurse had continually been found fault with in the discharge of her duty by an over-zealous but very small minority of the Board. The threat of writing to the Local Government Board on trivial matters had been made frequently. These and

other unwarrantable and uncalled-for annoyances had at last reached a point to be endured no longer, and the resignation of the nurses was the only possible outcome. In the meantime the patients were to be under the care of two inexperienced and young probationers, neither of whom were capable of attending a midwifery, or any other urgent case which might present itself. "He asked in all seriousness if the small minority of the Board, who were responsible for this state of affairs, had any just claim to the title of Guardians of the Poor." We congratulate this gentleman upon his plain speaking, which must, we think, be productive of good.

AN inquiry by the Local Government Board was demanded by some of the members of the Board, but upon being put to the vote was lost. Mr. Shephard supported the demand for an inquiry on the ground that "he believed there was no limitation to what a Guardian should do!" This gentleman also left the room exclaiming with reference to another matter that it was like "so much casting pearls before swine." This language may appear to readers of the NURSING RECORD, parliamentary, after that which is made use of at the meetings of the Royal British Nurses' Association, by a late medical honorary secretary, Dr. Bezly Thorne. We learn from the local press, however, that several members immediately drew the attention of the chairman to the language just used, but by this time the member had retreated, and it is not improbable that at the next meeting the conduct of the member in question will be brought into consideration. Apparently, language which would pass without comment at a meeting of a chartered association of women, is not tolerated by country Guardians. Probably they are not so used to it, as the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association are by this time. Perhaps also they have a chairman who does not encourage it.

AT a recent meeting of the Birkenhead Board of Guardians, Mr. George Edwards asked permission to make a personal explanation. It will be remembered that a short time ago Mr. George Edwards objected to the appointment of Nurse Ellis, as charge nurse, on the ground, which was over-ruled, that she was too young for the position. He now produced a copy of the certificate of her birth which proved that she would not be twenty until next December. The Chairman said he did not see how Mr. Edwards could call that a personal explanation, but Mr. Edwards said that he had been accused of making erroneous statements, and of opposing the proposed appointment without good reason, and his present action showed that his opposition had been well founded. We congratulate Mr. Edwards upon proving his point.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)