

that a probationer who, after six months' training, starts work as a fully fledged nurse in a country district, is dear at *any* price. The idea that "half-hatched" medical men are a cheap or desirable commodity has long since exploded. Colonel Irwin, in seconding the adoption of the motion, commented upon the excess of the expenditure over the income of the institution, but stated that in spite of all "the total income was in excess of that of previous years, and that was owing to the increase from dividends, and apparently from private nursing fees." We are sorry that it was possible to make this statement, as we consider it absolutely unjust that the funds of any institution should benefit by the appropriation of any part of the earnings of private nurses.

It must be remembered that private nurses have only about twenty years, at most, in which to save sufficient money to keep themselves off the rates in their old age, and after expenses have been defrayed—which from practical experience, we are able to say can be done for about 1s. 7d. in the pound, or 7½ per cent. of the nurses' earnings—the rest of the money should go into the pockets of the women who have earned it. If they choose to give donations to the support of the Infirmary, well and good, but let these gifts be acknowledged as such, not be compulsorily subtracted. Are there any men, medical men or others, who would for a moment submit to their hard-earned money being manipulated in this way? We do not believe it. Perhaps the matter has never before been presented in this light to the Committee of the Carlisle Infirmary, but we hope that now it is put before them, they will recognize the justice of our remarks.

At the Annual Meeting of the Smethwick Nursing Association it was stated that there had been no change in the nursing staff during the past year, and the committee had only the highest commendation for each of the nurses in respect to the discharge of their duties. They had spared themselves neither time, strength, nor trouble in attending to their patients, and this was proved by the fact that many of the poorest patients of their own free will became donors and subscribers of small amounts to the Association funds. This is a sure testimony to the appreciation of the work of the nurses by their patients.

In the sixth annual report of the Aberdeen District Nursing Association, in connection with the Queen's Jubilee Institute, it is recorded that the Association, during the past year, lost the valuable services of Miss Armstrong, the first superintendent of nurses, to whose admirable work during the past five years the success of the movement has been largely due.

Miss Armstrong left Aberdeen for Liverpool to take the post of inspector of nurses for the North of England. Miss Macmaster, who had previously been in charge of the district nursing at Hamilton, was appointed to the vacant post. We regret to observe that the income of the Association last year fell short of the expenditure by over £100. The benefits which are conferred by it are keenly appreciated by the sick poor, who frequently express, not only their thanks to the nurses, but also touching sentiments of simple and loyal gratitude to the Queen.

UNDER an order of the Irish Local Government Board the authorities of every workhouse in Ireland are required to provide a trained nurse for the benefit of the sick inmates, and Mr. Gerald Balfour's new Bill proposes to enact that half the cost of this arrangement shall be defrayed in every case out of the grant which is to be given from the Imperial Exchequer.

THE Local Government Board have refused to sanction the appointment of a girl of fifteen as assistant nurse in the infirmary at Ballycastle. So we should imagine! The medical officer is, however, supporting the appointment on the following grounds: (1) Although the girl is only about fifteen years of age, yet she has the appearance of eighteen years; (2) that she has been doing a woman's work in the infirmary for the last six months, and doing it well, entirely to his satisfaction and that of the two nurses in charge; (3) that she has been provided by the guardians with a complete outfit for her work, and it seems a pity that both this and the training that she has received during the last six months should be lost to the guardians. The medical officer suggested, therefore, that the Local Government Board should be requested by the guardians to refrain from taking action until the next visit of the inspector, who could give his opinion as to the suitability of the girl for the work required of her. It was unanimously decided by the guardians to adopt this course. The girl in question may be an exceptional one, but, from all points of view, we think it is inadvisable that a girl of this age should be appointed as assistant nurse, and we do not wonder at the refusal of the Local Government Board to sanction the appointment.

DR. COOK, in writing to *Mercy and Truth*, the record of the C.M.S. Medical Mission Work, gives a vivid account of the various duties which have fallen to his lot during the recent war in Uganda. Here is an extract:—"A brisk skirmish this morning. The Major set 1000 Baganda and Basoga to work to cut the plantations down in the gardens

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