

upon by the Guardians, but that it would not satisfy the Local Government Board.

THE Master pointed out there was no examining body for clinical nurses in the three kingdoms at the present time where a nurse from Belfast could obtain the necessary qualifications. It had been the practice for all large hospitals, such as Guy's and St. Thomas's, to examine their own nurses, with added members if necessary.

THE fact that both the Local Government Board, and the Metropolitan Asylums Board, are emphasising the importance of the examination of nurses by an authority outside the institution in which they are educated, is a most satisfactory sign of the times.

At a recent meeting of the Aylesbury Board of Guardians, the medical officer, Mr. T. G. Parrott, attended to give reasons why trained nurses should be obtained for the workhouse infirmary. He stated that though he had no complaint to make against the present nurse, her standard of nursing was not very high, and he considered that a trained nurse was very desirable. The chairman said he could quite understand the medical officer advocating trained nursing; it was only natural that he should be in favour of it, as it afforded him a good opportunity for some one to help him in his work. It was very kind of the Local Government Board to order things, but that body did not have to pay for them. After a great deal of discussion Mr. Locke moved the following resolution:—"Considering that the present nurse has been nursing in the house for three and a half years, and as no complaint has been made, in the opinion of the Board the nursing in the house at present is all that is required." This was carried by 16 votes to 5.

In commenting upon the subject the *Lancet* says: "We consider this a most unsatisfactory result. It is perfectly obvious that in any place where the sick are gathered together away from their friends or relations proper trained nursing ought to be provided for them. The treatment of the poor under the Poor-law has been more or less a scandal ever since the Poor-law came into operation; the grosser evils have been removed to a certain extent, but still much remains to be done, and until some practicable scheme of separating the deserving poor from the profligate, the idle and the loafer is devised scandals will continue to exist. But sickness is the same and as hard to bear in every class, and the sick must be carefully tended."

At a meeting of the Pontefract Board of Guardians a discussion arose upon the allegations made at a previous meeting of interference between certain labour members of the Board between the master and the officials of the House, leading to

insubordination and annoyance. The Local Government Board Inspector presented a schedule of entries from the porter's book of visits made by certain guardians. Finally, the porter was called into the room and stated that "generally when the guardians stayed in the infirmary a very long time he had gone down and seen them in the nurses' room." One of the Guardians stated his conviction that "the whole thing was got up to reflect on the labour members. Personally, he should take great credit to himself if he visited the infirmary for so many hours together, but labour members were never treated respectfully, either there or anywhere else." Another Guardian said that "the most marvellous thing about the whole business was the ready way in which members rose to defend themselves, although no charge whatever had been made." Personally, we are of opinion that the merit of a visit depends not upon its length, but upon the way in which the time is employed during the visit. We fail to see anything meritorious, for instance, in a prolonged visit if the greater part of it is spent in the nurses' sitting-room.

On Saturday last their Excellencies the Lord-Lieutenant and Countess Cadogan received those nurses of the City of Dublin Nursing Institution who nursed the sick on the island of Inniskea during the epidemic of typhus fever which occurred last year. The nurses who were first sent to the island worked day and night in their endeavour to cope with the epidemic, and when they themselves contracted the disease, others from the same institution at once took their place. The nurses were invited to the Vice-regal Lodge in order that their services might receive public recognition. A most interesting feature in the proceedings was the bestowal upon the nurses of the rank and decoration, of Honorary Serving Sisters, by the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England. The ceremony of admission was conducted by Mr. Francis Davies, Senior Knight of Justice of the Order, and President of the Dublin centre of the St. John's Ambulance Association, who was deputed by the Chapter to represent His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the Grand Prior.

THE nurses and invited guests assembled on the terrace of the Vice-regal Lodge at 3 p.m. After their Excellencies, the Lord Lieutenant and Countess Cadogan, had taken their seats, Mr. Dallas Pratt, Hon. Secretary of the Dublin centre, explained the object of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England. The Right Hon. Lord Justice Fitzgibbon, Chairman of the City of Dublin Nursing Institution then stated the services tendered by the nurses who were to receive the decoration, after which the ceremony of admission to the Order, by Mr. Francis Davies, took place. The nurses were then invested with the decoration

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