

MISS WILSON, the Matron of the Cardiff Infirmary at the last monthly meeting of that institution, resigned the appointment which she has held with credit for the last seven years. In placing her resignation in the hands of the Committee, Miss Wilson wrote that her position "had not been a pleasant one during the past twelve months." She had been appointed Matron to another Infirmary, and desired to leave as soon as possible. A member having moved that Miss Wilson should be asked to meet the Committee, this was carried by six votes to one, and Miss Wilson entered the Committee room.

SHE stated in reply to the Chairman that the unpleasantness referred to was continual fault-finding and friction. A report had been made that the institution was well and carefully managed, and after that they should surely trust their officials. Individual members of the Committee troubled and gave worry about things they did not understand, and it was impossible for her to submit to them though she was pleased to carry out the orders of the Committee. She could give up her new appointment, but the friction would continue. If the ladies went on coming to do certain things it would cause friction. She mentioned one offender by name, and said she did not think she could stay if this lady remained on the Committee.

ONE of the Committee stated that there were close on 50 members; and he thought it was a pity that individual members should be able to come at any time and constitute a system of espionage. Such unguarded license would bring them into collision, and cause them the loss of valued servants. He believed that in Miss Wilson they had a capable Matron, with natural gifts, and he suggested that she be asked to reconsider her resignation. Eventually, Miss Wilson promised to do so, and to communicate her decision to the board. Upon leaving the Committee Room she was warmly applauded.

WE think that Miss Wilson has done wisely in protesting against individual interference in the management of her department. We hope that if she decides to retain her appointment, she will insist upon a regulation being drawn up in black and white, stating that while she undertakes to carry out the orders of the Committee, in its corporate capacity, she is not required to take orders from individual members. In no other way can discipline be maintained in any institution.

THE question of the wisdom of providing stimulants for the use of nurses was recently brought up at a meeting of the Aston Board of Guardians, at a meeting held at the Workhouse, Gravelly Hill. A member of the board moved, as an

amendment to the adoption of a report, prepared by a special committee appointed to formulate rules and regulations concerning the probationers in the workhouse infirmary, that a clause be added that probationers were not to take stimulants in the workhouse infirmary, without the sanction or permission of the medical officer of the house, or other medical adviser.

WE have on previous occasions expressed the opinion that it is inadvisable to educate nurses in the habit of depending upon stimulants. We have no wish to interfere with the "liberty of the subject," or that hard and fast rules should be issued on this matter. But at the same time we think that Committees are bound to consider the well-being of the probationers entrusted to their care. Many of these, we do not doubt, come from homes where stimulants do not form part of the daily menu. The habit of relying upon the use of stimulants is much more easily formed than given up, and Committees which provide stimulants for the use of their nurses must we think hold themselves responsible for the formation of an undesirable habit. Probationers and nurses are, or should be, recruited from the ranks of healthy young women, and these certainly do not need to use stimulants habitually.

WE think, therefore, that the best line for Committees to take on this subject is, simply to say that they do not provide stimulants for their nurses, except under medical orders, which should hold good for a definite period, at the end of which, unless renewed, the supply of stimulants to the nurse should be discontinued. Palatable and wholesome beverages such as lemonade, lime juice, cocoa, coffee, or milk are easily provided, and certainly should be. By these means, the formation of the habit of dependence upon stimulants is avoided, and the nurses are consequently fortified against a very real danger.

WE recently reported that the Norwich Board of Guardians, who are laudably anxious to obtain theoretical instruction for their probationers, applied to the Committee of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital to allow them to attend the lectures given at that institution. The matter was again referred to at the quarterly meeting of the governors of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. The Committee and Hon. Medical Staff were quite willing that the workhouse nurses, not exceeding eight in number at a time, should attend the lectures at the Hospital free of charge, but they declined to admit them to their examinations or to grant them certificates.

THIS offer appears to be a very liberal one. The training in a workhouse infirmary, where many of

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)