

We venture to disagree entirely with Dr. Browne. Firstly, because nurses are not trained by medical men, but by the Superintendent of Nurses; and, secondly, because a nurse at a private case is entirely unsupervised, except for the few minutes daily of the doctor's visit, when his attention is given to his patient, and not to teaching the nurse the best methods of performing the practical details of her work. Furthermore, the training received by medical men and nurses is entirely distinct, and a well-qualified medical man is not necessarily, or even commonly, a good nurse, any more than a good nurse is qualified to act as a medical man.

The practical training of nurses, in all well-organized hospitals, rests with the Matron and Superintendent of Nurses, and only those who have been responsible for such training know how careful and continuous must be the supervision of nurse-pupils, if at the end of their period of pupilage they are to be conversant with the best methods of performing nursing duties, and to be dexterous in their execution. The practical training of nurses must, it is true, be supplemented by instruction in anatomy, physiology, and hygiene, as a knowledge of the rudiments of these subjects forms a scientific basis upon which to build practical education, and such instruction is undoubtedly, owing to his fuller knowledge, best given by a medical man. But, a nurse's actual duties consist in the personal care of her patients, and it is the province of the Superintendent of Nurses, and of the Sisters working under her, to see that a nurse can make a bed without wrinkled sheets, that she can move a draw sheet without leaving crumbs under the patient's back, that she knows the temperature at which a nasal feed should be given, and why a nutritive enema should be given at blood heat, and the many other thousand and one things which go to make a good nurse, and with which a medical man has a right to expect that a nurse who undertakes the care of a private patient should be well acquainted. Training before all things consists in the teaching of details, and in the performance of these details by the pupil nurse, *under supervision*. We scarcely think that busy and hard worked medical men would like this additional duty required of them.

BOARD ROOM AMENITIES.

The Local Government Board, who have been considering the report of a committee

appointed to enquire into the alleged irregularities in the Belfast Workhouse Infirmary, have written to the Guardians and expressed the hope that the recommendations of the Committee will be faithfully carried out, and that the occurrence of similar abuses in future would be prevented.

At a recent meeting, Mr. Oswald stated that he had brought these matters before the Board, but in his opinion the Committee did not go far enough. They contented themselves with stating that the charges were proven, whereas, they should eradicate the evils complained of. He further stated that, since the last meeting, he had privately been informed of a worse case than any he had yet reported.

A patient who recently died in the infirmary was, he was informed, in such a condition that the clergyman who administered to him the last rites of his Church, had to get outside assistance to get the man washed, and had to protect himself from the vermin with a sheet. Mr. Oswald said he did not propose to ask for a Committee in this case, he would send it direct to the Local Government Board. The Chairman, Mr. James Thompson, J.P., said that Mr. Oswald brought many charges, but proved very few, whereupon Mr. Oswald drew his attention to the report of the Committee, and requested him to withdraw this remark, and the Chairman subsequently admitted that some of Mr. Oswald's charges had been proved.

Mr. Ross then joined in the fray, and said that all the charges had not been proved. Mr. Oswald said the place was swarming with maggots, but the evidence was that there might have been one or two. This was too much for Mr. Oswald, who exclaimed "You are a liar, Sir. In the beautiful language of the New Testament, you are a liar." The Chairman said Mr. Oswald could not use language like that, whereupon Mr. Oswald returned: "It is good old English, Sir, and I will say again that Mr. Ross is a liar. He said I alleged the place was swarming with maggots. I said there were maggots in the bed of one of the patients, and that was proved."

A member accused Mr. Oswald of making these statements for electioneering purposes, but if he can prove that there are maggots in the patients' beds, and that a patient was found swarming with vermin as described above—and presumably he would not recklessly make such statements—we think he is only performing a public duty in drawing attention to such conditions.

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