

Workers, who had paid down hard cash for the benefit of registration, when the Register was swept away? They would not have been consulted any more than the nurses have been, and unless they had carried the question into a court of law, most certainly they would have obtained no satisfaction from the Association.

The abolition of the Register, and the manner in which this has been carried out, is but the latest instance of the high-handed autocracy of the officials of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and the saddest feature in the situation is that the nurses themselves have been so intimidated and cowed that we doubt if there is one of them who will have the courage to demand her undoubted right, namely—either the restitution of the Register, or the return of the guinea she has paid for registration.

IS IT REASONABLE?

A CORRESPONDENT of a contemporary complains of the custom which prevails at many hospitals of unlocking the doors to out-patients at a certain hour, so that "no matter how inclement the weather, the patients are kept shivering outside until the time for opening." But we do not think this is a legitimate grievance. It is necessary that in all institutions there should be some regulations; no place could be worked without them. For instance—as to the case in point—the patients could not possibly be admitted without the doctors and nurses being on duty to attend to them. But, it is a necessity that these workers should have a certain amount of time off duty for sleep, meals, and recreation; this, therefore, necessitates regular hours for seeing out-patients. If the patients are aware of the hour at which the doors are opened, it is their responsibility if they come before that time. Our remarks, of course, refer only to the regular out-patients; the casualty department of a hospital should be, and is, open day and night, and doctors and nurses are always in attendance. We do not, therefore, consider it unreasonable to ask the ordinary out-patients to attend within limited hours.

THE SHOE THAT PINCHES.

THE Regulations of the Irish Local Government Board, enforcing a minimum standard of training for all nurses whose salaries are paid

in part by the Board, are making themselves uncomfortably felt, and more than one Board of Guardians has passed, and forwarded to the Local Government Board, a resolution protesting against the order. We fully believe that these regulations give rise to difficulties, under the present conditions of nursing, in Ireland. It is necessary to point out, however, that the Irish Local Government Board only insists upon two years' training in a hospital recognised by medical examining bodies, or a non-clinical hospital of at least 150 beds; furthermore, the nurses must be certified after examination, and must have had experience in the nursing of infectious diseases. But the Board only supplements the salary of one nurse in each institution, and, therefore, she only comes under these regulations. Is it too much to require that one nurse in each Poor Law Infirmary should possess the amount of experience enforced? In particular cases the rules press hardly, no doubt; for instance, it is maintained, and we have no doubt rightly, that in every instance where nuns have been employed as nurses, marked improvement has been the result, but that they do not possess the training required under the new regulations, and must necessarily give place to trained nurses. The remedy is, however, simple; two years is a very short time, after all. Surely, the sisters can accept the fact that we are moving on with time, that what sufficed yesterday does not suffice to-day; and see the wisdom of entering a hospital for training, and so qualifying themselves for the required standard. Their services, valuable now, will be doubly so then, as the patients will receive not only kindly and sympathetic care, but also the skilled nursing which they at present lack in too many instances. Manifestly, Irish Guardians need educating on the question of what constitutes a trained nurse, for one recently asserted, "There are nurses all over Ireland, experienced and proficient, who hold diplomas and certificates from doctors, and are declared ineligible for appointments by the restrictions of the order because they lack a clinical education. I have been told that nurses who get a clinical training are not as well qualified, nor do they get the same practical knowledge as the other nurses." Where should a nurse get her knowledge we may ask except clinically? So long as Guardians have such little grasp of the nursing question, we fear there cannot be much advance made in nursing reform.

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