

has been falsely accused by various unprofessional officials, and as is so often the case, practically condemned unheard by the Guardians. This lady took the sensible course of demanding a judicial investigation, and was supported in her demand by all her fellow-nurses, who signified their intention of resigning if justice was not done. We highly commend the commonsense and courage of these nurses.

* * *

ULTIMATELY the Guardians of the Infirmary formed themselves into a Committee of Investigation, under the Chairmanship of Sir Charles Legard, to enquire into the charges brought against Superintendent Nurse Barralette. It is once again a case of friction between the master and matron and the Superintendent Nurse, and the Committee may rest assured that so long as trained nurses are placed under the control of untrained masters and matrons, just so long will difficulties occur. After hearing the evidence of the Superintendent Nurse and of the Master and Matron, the Guardians decided to accept the resignations of the four nurses. The nurses, probably, are not to be pitied, but we think that there are troubles in store for the Guardians. They are only at the beginning of their difficulties as regards the nursing question.

* * *

ONE charge made against Miss Barralette was that she came down half-an-hour late in the morning. We are quite aware that this is a point in which laxity very easily creeps in with Sisters and Charge Nurses, more especially where there is no Matron; and as the early morning hours are specially valuable to the patients, it is one upon which it is necessary strictly to maintain discipline. But if a nurse works night as well as day, as is alleged in the present case, some allowance must be made for her, as she, in common with other mortals, must have a reasonable time for rest, if she is to perform her duty efficiently.

* * *

AN enquiry into the management of the Kent Nursing Institution is proceeding, and it is somewhat difficult to arrive at the rights of the case. The institution has branch homes at Bromley and Tunbridge Wells, as well as the head quarters at Malling, and all three are nominally under the control of Miss Ligertwood, the Lady Superintendent at the latter place. It is the Tunbridge Wells institution which is stated to be a source of weakness to the institution. It would seem that the sympathy of the nursing staff is with Miss Ligertwood, and some two dozen of the nurses have offered to assist her in starting a home at Folkestone.

* * *

THE Coroner at an inquest, recently held at Dudley, dealt somewhat severely with a nurse who was summoned to attend an inquest. A tele-

phonic message was sent from the Guest Hospital, to the staff of which institution the nurse belongs, to say that the nurse was detained at an important operation. It is evident, therefore, that no disrespect of the Court was intended, but that the nurse's non-appearance was due to a misapprehension of her duty. The Coroner, however, held that the excuse was insufficient, there being other nurses who might have taken her place in operation room, and she was fined £5. Would not the interests of justice have been met, and the authority of the Court been vindicated, if the nurse had, in reply to her telephonic message, received instructions to immediately attend the inquest? Dudley is not, after all, a very large place.

* * *

THE story of the "African Prince" who entered a nursing home as a patient and for lodgings and loans of money, left the institution owing the Superintendent £200, and various nurses smaller sums, is one more instance of the danger of lending money to strangers. We are astonished at the ease with which loans of money are obtained from unwary nurses, and we are of opinion that it is inadvisable to lend money, unless the borrower is personally known to the lender; otherwise, the strong probability is that the money borrowed will never be repaid.

* * *

AT a recent meeting of the Board of the General Hospital, Galway, the Chairman read a letter from the Matron, resigning her position from ill-health. The following notice of motion was subsequently given by Mr. John C. M'Donnell: "I hereby give notice that I or someone on my behalf will, at the next general monthly meeting of the governors, move that as the office of Matron of the hospital is now vacant, the governors at the said meeting will take into consideration the great advantage it would be to the hospital and the patients to introduce a Sister of Mercy as Matron of the hospital; and that the governors at the meeting will come to a definite conclusion on the subject. That a copy of this notice of motion be sent to each governor a reasonable time before the date of next meeting, Saturday, 3rd June, 1899."

* * *

WITH the advantage or otherwise of Sisters of Mercy in this institution we are not concerned, but we hope that before the Board appoints any Superintendent of the Nursing Department in the Hospital under control, they will require evidence of at least three years' hospital training as well as of administrative capacity. The nursing qualifications of Sisters of Mercy should be investigated in exactly the same way as those of lay nurses, but we are aware that it not infrequently happens that in the case of Sisters their nursing qualifications are taken on trust.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)