

Hospital, with regard to the investigation—or want of investigation—on the part of the Prince of Wales' Fund concerning the nursing departments of our hospitals. Sir Savile Crossley has pointed out that this is not absolutely correct, as two questions were asked: (1) What is the number of nurses? (2) What accommodation?

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BUT what Mr. Holland contended was that no questions were asked as to the training of nurses, their hours on or off duty, or as to their food. He suggests that next year the visitors of the Prince's Fund should ask every Matron to produce a register, or some record showing what experience every nurse in her hospital has received up to date. In some hospitals, he says, no such record is kept at all, and nurses are turned out as trained who have had but very little general experience at all. We are glad that the Chairman of the London Hospital is taking up this matter, a reform for which the NURSING RECORD has long pleaded, for there is but one step from the private hospital register to the general register available for the use of the public.

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A WOMAN, dressed in nursing uniform, has recently made several attempts to victimise Birmingham shopkeepers by asking for goods on approval. Those entrusted to her are never again seen by the shopkeeper. Occasionally, when a cautious salesman has undertaken to send the goods to an institution named by this person, it has been found that no one of the name she gave is employed there. Such incidents bring the gravest discredit upon the nursing profession, but as nurses have at present no professional register, they are unable to repudiate this person and to show that she is not one of them. The public will do well to understand that so long as there is no means of ascertaining whether or no a woman who professes to be a nurse is qualified for the position she assumes, the position is one of grave danger to themselves. Not only may ignorant and untrained women who pose as trained nurses enter their houses to nurse them when ill, but owing to the intimacy and confidence with which a nurse is treated, a disreputable woman has every facility for annexing the property of her patient, and of bringing a profession to which she does not belong into disrepute. Medical men protect themselves and the public by means of their professional register. They would not think of meeting in consultation any medical practitioner whose name does appear in it. It is surely time that they insisted upon the same measure of protection for the public with regard to trained nurses. If they do not do so, then, as a matter of self-protection, the public must themselves demand legal registration

of nurses by Act of Parliament in order that they may be able to differentiate between the fit and the unfit.

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THE Local Government Board have been putting pressure on the Limavady Guardians, in order to compel them to obtain the services of a fully qualified nurse in their Workhouse. Having written to the Medical Officer, and the Master of the Workhouse, on the subject, they enclosed copies of the letters to the Board.

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THE letter to Dr. Watson, medical officer, was to the effect that, there being at present in the Workhouse only one untrained nurse for both day and night duty, and as the Guardians had definitely declined to take steps with a view to the appointment of a trained nurse, in the emergency which had now arisen, the Local Government Board would hold him accountable, under the provisions of the Nursing Order of the 11th September, 1897, for the nursing arrangements of the infirmary. In the opinion of the Local Government Board the employment of at least one trained or highly qualified nurse was necessary, and the doctor should furnish forthwith a requisition to the Workhouse Master for such a nurse. The letter to the Master was to the effect that the Local Government Board would hold him responsible, upon the receipt of a requisition from the medical officer, for obtaining without the least unnecessary delay the services of a trained and highly qualified nurse. The Master said he had that morning received a requisition from the medical officer for a nurse, and he was bound to comply with that under a penalty. This was, in fact, a sealed order.

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THE Limavady Guardians had previously advertised for a nurse at a salary of £35 per annum, but had received no reply. They have now decided to advertise asking nurses to say on what terms they would come. These Guardians are not singular in their inability to secure the services of a well qualified nurse. Complaints are heard from infirmaries on all sides, and we do not doubt that until infirmary nursing is put on a more satisfactory basis, so long will nurses avoid infirmary appointments. The reason is not dearth of nurses, but their inability to perform the duties of their office while the present unsatisfactory conditions under which they are so often required to work prevail.

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MOST interesting is the report of the School of Nursing, Galveston, U.S.A., a part of the Department of Medicine in the University of Texas. The staff of instructors includes Miss Hanna Kindbom, Superintendent, and Clinical Instructor

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