

registration, such as in their own case they insist upon for their protection, they cannot free themselves from responsibility when nursing scandals occur. It will be remembered that trained nurses founded the British Nurses' Association with the object of combating the very evils of which Mr. Gant complains, and that when the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association called a Conference of medical men and nurses to express their opinion on the advisability of legal registration for nurses, that the Medical Honorary Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association, Mr. E. A. Fardon, of the Middlesex Hospital, as well as its Nurse Representative, voted for a resolution: "That a legal system of registration of nurses is inexpedient in principle, and injurious to the best interests of nurses, and of doubtful public benefit," and, further, that it was owing solely to the votes of these two officials that this resolution was passed, a fact which must always be a grave discredit to the Royal British Nurses' Association.

FURTHERMORE, before Mr. Gant throws mud at the nursing profession, he will, if he takes our advice, remember the proverb "Physician, heal thyself," and make quite sure that, in spite of the fact that the medical profession have the protection of the Medical Register, and the right of removing black sheep from their ranks, no medical man is "an accessory to crime," when "a poor bewildered mother, driven to extremity," is "ready to risk her own life in the destruction of her offspring," and, in consequence, makes a substantial income out of his unholy connivance with crime. Mr. Gant would be well advised to employ himself in bringing any cases of this description, which may be within his knowledge, before the attention of the General Medical Council, and to leave the nursing profession to manage its own affairs. As he himself tells us, the relations between the two professions may be of the happiest "so long as they both fulfil their respective functions never to be confounded."

Two inquests, which have recently been held in connection with deaths which have occurred at the Stepney Union Workhouse, have brought out the fact that the number of nurses in this institution is inadequate to its needs. The Coroner gave expression to his opinions on this subject, and said that "efficiency must be secured even at the expense of the rate-payers' pockets." In the first case, the father of the boy upon whom the inquest was held, complained that he sat by the boy's bed for twenty minutes and then discovered that he was dead. The nurse in

charge of the patient said that she and another nurse on night duty had to look after six wards, containing about 100 patients. She had to attend a delirious patient in another ward, and that accounted for her delay in informing the Workhouse Master of the death.

THE second inquest was on a patient with pneumonia, who was so delirious and violent as a result, that he had to be put under mechanical restraint. It was stated that the door of the padded room was in the contractor's hands, and had been there for three weeks. The man was therefore kept in a straight jacket and was strapped down with sheets for nearly twelve hours.

IN returning a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence, the jury asked the Coroner to draw the attention of the Board of Guardians and the Local Government Board to the fact that mechanical restraint had to be employed for nearly twelve hours in consequence of the padded room being unavailable, and that in their opinion there ought to be a minimum of two padded rooms for males and two for females in the workhouse. A padded room with an absent door might as well be non-existent so far as practical utility is concerned.

WE are glad to observe that the Local Government Board for Ireland have spoken in explicit terms concerning their order relating to the nursing of the sick by paupers, which is open to misconception. At the meeting of the Lisburn Board of Guardians, held last week, the Clerk, Mr. William Sinclair, read a letter from the Local Government Board dealing with the report of the Visiting Committee relative to certain matters referred to in the last half-yearly report of their Inspector, Mr. Agnew. "With reference to the observation of the Committee that the Board's Nursing Order is complied with, inasmuch as the paupers who are in attendance on the sick are approved of by the medical officer and act under the direct supervision of the officials, I am to point out that there is a misunderstanding of the Board's order in this matter. The medical officer has the right of approval in certain contingencies of such pauper inmates as he may consider suitable for servants or attendants, but it does not authorise him to sanction the employment of paupers upon nursing duties. The Board have, therefore, to request that the nursing order may in this respect be strictly complied with in future, and that steps may be taken for the appointment of paid officers to replace the two pauper attendants referred to by Mr. Agnew."

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