

"By the way, the stationery of the West London Male and Female Nurses' Association is now adorned with the Royal Arms. Ley possibly imagines that his position as a contractor for supplying sweated labour to a Government office entitles him to this decoration. The Association of Royal Warrant Holders would do well to undeceive him."

Thoroughly trained female nurses ought to be grateful that members of their sex have so organized their "Co-operations" that they are able to obtain the highest fees by paying the small $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Of course, it is difficult for male nurses to organize on these lines without the expense of a "middle man," because they cannot in any institution yet obtain a thorough nursing training and education, so that men are not eligible to co-operate with thoroughly trained women nurses, and share the economical management which they have instituted with so much benefit and success. We wonder if Mr. Ley's "females" are also sweated to the same amount as his "males," and also what "standard" of training is in force in his Association?

The internal difficulties at the Newton Abbot Workhouse Infirmary have become somewhat wearisome, and are of a perennial character. The latest trouble has occurred with regard to a Nurse Flaherty, whose resignation has been called for on the ground that she did not carry out the directions of the medical officer, and left a patient alone with whom she was directed to stay. The nurse contends that she never received such an order; on the contrary, although she asked for extra help, saying she could not take the responsibility of this case, and do her other work as well, she was refused it. It is the old story of an Infirmary Nurse being required to look after more patients than she can possibly attend to—result disaster—then somebody must be made a scape-goat. Nurse Flaherty's resignation was, therefore, called for. At the last meeting of the Guardians the reference to be given to this nurse was discussed, and while it was agreed to state that since 1899 the nurse had proved herself efficient, and up to a recent date had carried out her duties to the satisfaction of the guardians, the medical officer, and superintendent nurse, the following "sting in the tail" was added. "During the past few weeks there has been friction amongst the nursing staff, and in consequence of a complaint from the medical officer the guardians called upon Miss Flaherty to tender her resignation, which she did, and this was accompanied by the resignation of three other nurses."

We are not prepared to say that Miss Flaherty

will not get another appointment on the strength of this reference, but we do say that no Board of Guardians with any grip of nursing matters will accept her. Of course there are many Boards who are willing to appoint nurses with any testimonials—or without them for that matter—but such appointments are not desirable in the interests of the sick.

The whole incident once more proves the inability of many Boards of Guardians to deal with nursing matters in their workhouse infirmaries, and the need of some Central Authority to organize and control the Poor Law Nursing Service.

An instance of the spread of infection by a cat is given in the annual report of Dr. Williamson, Medical Officer for the Sandal Urban Council near Wakefield. A family left home taking their child with them, and the house being closed the family cat was lodged with a friend next door, who lived next to an infected house where also there was a cat. While away the child did not mix with any others, but on her return home she was seized with scarlet fever the day after the cat was fetched back. We think there can be no doubt that the soft fur of pussy is an excellent nidus for the wily microbe, and for this reason we deprecate the custom of ward sisters keeping cats as pets. The ingratiating way in which they rub their soft persons against all and sundry may be pleasing to cat lovers, but it is dangerous in a ward of sick persons when the cat goes from one bed to another.

On the occasion of their leaving Kirkcaldy the two much-esteemed Victoria nurses, Misses Ford and Whyte, were waited upon by Drs. Welsh, Curror and Mackay, as representing the Kirkcaldy District Medical Association. They presented Miss Ford with a beautiful gold watch, with centre second hand, so useful in a nurse's work, and Miss Whyte with a handsome gold brooch. The watch bore the following inscription: "Presented to Miss Ford by the Kirkcaldy District Medical Association for efficient services." On behalf of the ladies, and several other friends, Mrs. Oswald of Dunnikier presented Miss Ford with a purse of sovereigns, and Miss Whyte with a beautiful writing-case and umbrella. In addition, as showing how thoroughly their labours have been appreciated, the two ladies have also been presented with nurses' chatelaines, subscribed for by their patients among the working classes.

We understand that various operating theatres at St. Thomas' Hospital are at present in the hands of workmen, and that when the alterations are complete they will be models of their kind.

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