

He wished to mention one case which occurred in Derry some years ago, where a man rolled out of bed and died during the night, because there was no responsible person in charge of the ward.

Dr. J. H. Moorhead, medical officer of Coote-hill Workhouse, said that nursing in workhouses, though better than formerly, was still far from efficient. It was chiefly inefficient in the number of nurses with a certain amount of training. There should be one nurse to every 10 beds as a minimum, and often that was not sufficient.

Sir George O'Farrell, Dr. Woodhouse, and Dr. Smith, of Naas, gave evidence to the same effect.

Sir William Thomson, in reply to Mr. Ronan, said that in his own hospital in Dublin they had for every 20 patients a superior assistant and three probationers in various stages of training up to two years, during the day. In a workhouse hospital there was a proportion of persons who were merely feeble, not suffering from any acute disease, and requiring simply to be looked after. In reply to Lord Justice FitzGibbon he said that what had been urged by the Local Government Board order in these cases, one in ten would be a fair proportion.

By Mr. Ronan: Sixty people would practically mean six attendants? Yes.

How many of these should be fully trained nurses? With a small number such as that, unless the patients were not much worse, I think one half should be thoroughly trained certificated nurses. It was essential that, night and day, trained nurses should be ready to attend on the patients, and any system which would not provide a continuous service of trained nurses for the 24 hours would be inadequate.

Dr. Thomas Myles, President of the Royal College of Surgeons, was then called, but said he had no experience as to the question of nursing in workhouses, nor had he any experience of it in connection with the Whitworth Hospital.

Mr. J. Mooney, J.P., Chairman of the South Dublin Union, in the course of his evidence said: In the South Dublin Union at present there were 489 sick men, 556 sick women, 50 epileptics, and 248 inmates. For the care of these there were, first of all, 14 nuns. They were not certificated nurses, according to Local Government ideas. He thought the question of certified nurses was carried to an extreme point. The nuns were not on duty the whole of the night, although those in the North Union were. They were away from 9 o'clock p.m. to 6 or 7 a.m. in the morning, and their place was taken by night nurses. In addition to the nuns there were 8 trained nurses, 16 paid assistants, and 11 night nurses. It was not necessary that the latter should be trained, although it happened that one of them

was. Then there were a number of pauper inmates employed as attendants. That would give a much higher average than that laid down by Sir Wm. Thomson and Sir Francis Cruise.

(Mr. Mooney evidently fails to understand that "a number of pauper attendants," and 11 night nurses, whom "it is not necessary should be trained," cannot rank in the same category as efficient nurses. Mere numbers do not count.)

Lord Justice FitzGibbon elicited there was only one trained nurse for a total of 1,532 patients from nine at night until six in the morning.

The whole evidence amply proves the need for a thorough re-organization of nursing in Irish workhouse infirmaries. We are glad that the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council reported that "evidence has been given, establishing to their satisfaction the necessity for some rule or order which will make better provision for efficient nursing," but the matter cannot be allowed to rest here. Effect must be given to this recommendation, and the Irish Local Government Board must be supported in its efforts to provide the sick poor, for whom they are responsible, with adequate nursing care. The present condition of nursing in most of these workhouse infirmaries is appalling.

An Address to Miss Baxter.

Miss Baxter and her staff, including the faithful Leo, have now left the Women and Children's Hospital, Cork, for which they worked so well. Miss Baxter's departure, however, was made the occasion of an address from the medical and surgical staff of the hospital, expressing their admiration for her work and their regret at the severance of their connection with one whom they regarded as a personal friend. They also presented her with an exquisitely illuminated album. This address, as well as that of 400 persons, who begged her to stay in their midst and open a private nursing institution, prove to the late Lady Superintendent of the Women and Children's Hospital, Cork, that her unique work is appreciated by those who know its worth.

The Plague at the Cape.

At the last monthly meeting of the Board of the New Somerset Hospital, it was reported that, in view of the outbreak of bubonic plague, every precaution is being taken against the introduction of the disease into the hospital. Two large marquees have been provided, the one for the use of out-patients, so as to obviate the necessity for their entering the hospital building, and the other for the purpose of segregating temporarily any cases of suspected plague that may present themselves for admission or treatment.

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