

poorest schools to attend to the small ailments of scholars, on the principle that there was no more sure way of securing the health of the people than to arrest small ills at the beginning. Nurse Petty seconded the motion, which was adopted.

The Walsall Board of Guardians have been distinguishing themselves, albeit discreditably. At a recent meeting a letter signed by all the probationary nurses in the workhouse infirmary was read, strongly objecting to a proposal to supply uniforms similar to their own to the female officials of the workhouse. When they came to the infirmary to learn their profession as nurses they did not expect to be dressed as cooks and laundresses, and they did not think there was any similar institution in England where such a practice would be followed. The Master (Mr. Totterdell) explained that the House Committee gave him discretion as to the uniform the female officials should wear, and he favoured their having a dress similar to that of the nurses, because he thought it would tend to allay certain friction which had existed between the workhouse and the infirmary. He believed it was a common practice for there to be such a similarity of uniforms, and the probationary nurses not having had any previous experience knew nothing about it. After considerable discussion, in which a distinctive uniform was urged by several members, including all the lady guardians, it was decided by ten votes to nine not to interfere with the arrangements which had been made.

With all due deference to Mr. Totterdell, we have no hesitation in asserting that he is entirely in the wrong, and the probationers in the right—we do not know of any reputable institution where the uniform of the nursing and domestic staff is identical. Anyway the nurses have the matter in their own hands. Let them resign in a body; the Guardians may then realise the absurdity of permitting the Master of a workhouse to pose as a Cock-Matron, and to dictate to women officers about matters of which he has neither knowledge nor discretion.

How would Mr. Totterdell like to wear the same uniform which is provided for the porters of the institution over which he appears to reign supreme. We commend this suggestion to the Lady Guardians, anyway, we hope these ladies will assert their rightful authority over Mr. Totterdell, and prevent him making both himself and the Board ridiculous in the future.

We think there is justice in the demand of Mrs. Morris, a member of the Derry Board of

Guardians, that a Roman Catholic Nurse should be selected to work in the infirmary. Mrs. Morris points out that there are 72 per cent. of Roman Catholic patients to be attended, and that it is not too much to ask that at least one of the nursing staff should be of the same faith. Why not?

Following on the interesting statement made by "Hollandia," in our last issue, that the Amsterdam section of the White Cross Association have instituted a new regulation requiring nurses to take a vow "to keep a sacred secret all things that come to her knowledge in her professional capacity," the action taken at the Annual Meeting of the New York Training School for Nurses is significant.

At the annual commencement of this School, lately held in the chapel of the City Hospital on Blackwell's Island, New York, Mrs. Cadwalader Jones, chairman of the advisory board of the school, caused general surprise by submitting to the graduating class of fifty-two young women a modified form of the "Oath of Hippocrates," to which they readily subscribed.

Mrs. Jones, in presenting the diplomas, spoke as follows:

"Until very recently women have had so little part in any actual competition with men that they have been exempt from many rules by which men are governed, but the old order is changed, and with a share of men's honour and emoluments, we must also be prepared to accept their responsibilities.

"The trained nurse necessarily occupies in the household a position of confidence compared to which even the physician's is secondary. She is there at all times, while his visits are occasional, by day and by night all that goes on in the sick room and outside it must almost inevitably be known to her.

"It is to the credit of your profession that, as far as I know, the knowledge thus gained has never been seriously abused, but there is a feeling, not general, perhaps, but widespread, that nurses gossip more or less in one house about what has happened in another.

"As doubtless you all know, a physician who graduates from a reputable medical school takes upon his graduation what is known as the "Oath of Hippocrates." That great physician lived more than 2,000 years ago, and scholars think that this oath may have been old even in his day. The gods by whom the ancients swore have been discarded, but duty and honour remain immortal.

"I will ask you to listen to a version of the Hippocratic oath, modified to suit your profession,

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