

pital, the Archbishop of York said he did not think there was any class of philanthropic institution in which more wonderful progress had been made during the past fifty years than in hospitals for the sick. There was much that was admirable in the hospitals as he knew them half a century ago, yet, compared with the hospitals of to-day, they were utterly inadequate and ill-supplied for the great work to which they were devoted. It was now a pleasure to go into a large hospital, but fifty years ago there was something repulsive about it. They were now supplied with all the appliances requisite for the care of patients, and the air was pure, as in the best houses. The Archbishop also referred to the great improvement in the class of nurses. He compared the nurses of to-day with those pictured in the pages of Charles Dickens and other writers, and observed with pleasure that the whole work had been lifted on to a higher level in the last half century.

We were startled this week by a paragraph headed "Swearing Nurses," but found upon perusal that it only alluded to the modified Hypocritic oath administered to nurses in New York. But from what we hear, indulgence in what are known as "swear words" is not a thing unknown to a certain undesirable class of nurses. A Probationer wrote us lately that "Sister swears like a trooper," and another friend at a Fever Hospital complains bitterly of coarse language indulged in in the dormitory. Swearing nurses are indeed an anomaly.

Miss Griffiths, of Lambeth Infirmary, has received the following kind letter from her Board:

"The Guardians have heard with profound regret of your intention to relinquish your office of Matron of their Infirmary in October next, and they are more especially sorry that ill-health is the cause of your leaving. They feel, however, that it will be some satisfaction to you to know how highly they appreciate your constant endeavour to render efficient the nursing staff under your charge, to maintain a high order of discipline, and to see that due care and attention is bestowed on the sick and suffering. The Board, more especially the older members, are aware of the many difficulties with which you have had to contend during your twenty-eight years of service as Matron, and of the unswerving and unflinching manner in which you have ever followed the path of duty which conscience and a thorough knowledge of the requirements of the institution have dictated to you. It must indeed be a source of gratification to you to look back on the long years of trial, of difficulty, of hard work, and of constant strain, and to know that from all these has resulted in a large measure the good order and efficiency which now exists. The work has brought its own reward in the esteem in which you are held alike by the Guardians and the officers with

whom you are brought in contact. As a mark of the appreciation of the Guardians of the services you have rendered to the parish it is their intention, unanimously expressed at their last meeting, to apply to the Local Government Board for permission to increase your retiring allowance to the maximum allowed by the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, and it is their earnest hope that you may be spared to enjoy many years of quiet content after your long and honourable official career."

This journal echoes all these good wishes.

We are glad to observe that the majority of the members of the Belfast Board of Guardians realise the necessity of discipline in the nursing department of the infirmary under their control. At their last meeting the infirmary committee reported that two of the nurses had applied for five days' leave of absence on account of the death of their brother-in-law. This was refused them by the Assistant Superintendent who found it impossible to spare them for so long, but offered them two days' leave. This they refused, but nevertheless took what leave seemed good to them, and then wrote to the Infirmary Committee saying they had gone out without leave, and asking if they might return. The Infirmary Committee recommended that as the Medical Officer stated that they were good nurses they should be censured and allowed to return.

On the adoption of the report being moved and seconded, Mr. Oswald moved, as an amendment, that the nurses be dismissed. The Chairman was of opinion that it was absolutely necessary for the discipline and conduct of the Union's affairs that Mr. Oswald's amendment should be carried. It might, however, be modified, and the nurses called on to resign. This was agreed to and carried. It is to be regretted that the amendment was not carried in its original form. It is, however, satisfactory that the nurses were not allowed to return as no Superintendent could maintain discipline if such behaviour were condoned.

Some wonderful new diseases have been discovered by London coroners during the past week—one lady's husband was reported by her to have died of "Ammonia," and at Shoreditch a witness informed Dr. Wynn Westcott, in answer to the question, "What was the matter with him before he went to the workhouse?" that "he seemed so dilatory in the head; that was all."

A gamin of the Shoeblack Brigade thus saluted a nurse the other morning: "Well! we wos just talking 'bout yer, Sister, me and Bill, and I says, speak of the — I means, speak of anyone yer sure to see 'em!" "And what were you saying

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