

and similar discomforts are bad enough; but to these are sometimes added insanitary arrangements, and it is to be borne in mind that the most perfect sanitation and careful cleanliness are absolutely indispensable in surgical cases.

"Moreover, it is even rumoured that in some of these homes the nurses are neither certificated nor fully trained, which strikes me as the most perilous lapse in precaution of all. All this could be done away with by an adequate system of licensing such establishments, and inspecting them at short intervals. Such of them as were properly carried on would heartily welcome such supervision."

We are entirely in agreement with this letter, but it must be remembered that the abuses which exist in these Homes are only one phase of the whole nursing question. At the root of the trouble is the inchoate condition of the nursing profession in this country, and until nurses obtain State recognition and control we fear abuses will flourish. At the same time, if medical men insisted that Private Nursing Homes must be superintended by trained and certificated nurses before they sent patients into them, it is obvious that ignorant, speculating proprietors would be compelled to seek more fruitful sources of income.

The Mother Superior of the Kilkenny Convent recently refused to send a Sister to Thomastown Fever Hospital, on the ground of the neglect of the Guardians to put the hospital into proper sanitary repair. Her action was supported at a public meeting at Thomastown, and a section of the Guardians who resented her action was called upon to resign.

The care of the sick in County Monaghan appears to be at a low ebb at the present time. At the last monthly meeting of the Committee of the County Monaghan Infirmary the principal business before the meeting was to consider the complaint of Mr. Terence Kierans, Clones, which was to the effect that, during the eighteen days his son was a patient in the infirmary, his hands and face, or hair, were never washed or dressed, and his bedding was not interfered with, nor his sheets changed, except once a week. The letter had been considered at the last meeting, and had been adjourned for the presence of Dr. Hall, surgeon. Another letter was read from Mr. Kierans, stating that he had nothing to add to the facts already before the Committee, and which they had admitted as proven. The chairman said he did not think that all the facts were proven, although some of them were admitted by the nurses. Mr. Kierans had seemed to bring a charge against the medical officers of the Infirmary, and he, as chairman, thought it only fair to adjourn the matter for Dr. Hall's presence.

The excuse given by one of the nurses for the condition of neglect revealed in Mr. Kieran's letter, was that they were short-handed at the time, and, therefore, the patients did not receive the usual supervision. In reply to a question, the chairman said that Nurse M'Donnell had charge of all the wards, and he understood she was bound to go round them every day. The Committee, at their last meeting, were of opinion that Nurse Gibson was undoubtedly to blame, and that she should be reprimanded and censured for not attending to her duties. Dr. Hall said he was glad the matter had been brought forward and threshed out. He hated an undercurrent of feeling that the patients were being neglected. It was his wish to see that no one was neglected. The Committee ultimately passed the following resolution:—

"That having heard the statements of Mr. Kierans respecting the neglect of his son while a patient in the infirmary, and having investigated the matter, we have come to the conclusion that Nurse Gibson, who had charge of the ward, did neglect her duty, and that she deserves very severe censure, and a caution that should another similar case come under the notice of the Committee she will be considered unfit for her work."

The Committee then interviewed the nurse who was reprimanded by the Chairman. A Committee was also formed to investigate and report on the nursing system.

At the monthly meeting of the Joint Committee of Management of the Monaghan and Cavan Lunatic Asylum, Dr. Donaldson reported that Nurses Lily Crozier and Ellen Murphy were seen by Dr. Conlan beating a patient by striking her on the face and back of the head and neck. Dr. Conlan, who attended the meeting, in reply to a question from the Chairman, said that he saw Nurse Crozier strike the patient on the back of her head; Nurse Murphy also struck her very severely. Nurse Crozier said the patient had struck her on the face, she (the nurse) then caught her by the hand and received a kick. The patient then attempted to bite her, and she pushed her head back with her hand. Nurse Murphy said she had gone to Nurse Crozier's assistance, and when the patient attempted to bite her, she struck her lightly on the head. Dr. Donaldson said Nurse Crozier had been cautioned before about an assault on a patient, and that Nurse Murphy be cautioned.

Eventually it was decided that Nurse Crozier be fined £1 for her action in beating the patient, and that Nurse Murphy be cautioned.

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