

decided to discontinue the Home upon the expiration of the existing tenancy. The number of nurses in the service of the Institution had increased, and the committee hoped the staff might continue to grow and the scope of the Institution thus be enlarged. During the year nursing on gratuitous or reduced terms had been undertaken as follows:—Malling Home, 263 weeks, £140 fees remitted; Tunbridge Wells Home, 64 weeks, £28 11s. 9d. fees remitted; and Bromley Home, 33 weeks, £28 7s. 3d. fees remitted; giving totals of 360 weeks and £196 19s. 6d. fees remitted." As the Committee have received £215 13s. 6d. in subscriptions, besides £16 in donations, this does not mean that the nurses' earnings have been utilized to support the philanthropic work of the institution, but rather that this much needed aid has been rendered possible by the generosity of the well-to-do.

Mr. Humphreys, one of the Prestwich Union Guardians, recently pleaded for gifts of flowers for the workhouse. The poor folk there had a dull and monotonous time, and those who sent a few flowers were the means of bestowing pleasure upon them. A gift of flowers is always acceptable from the palace to the cottage, and there are few places where their influence is more felt and appreciated than in workhouse wards, more especially in those of the infirmaries, where they "freshen and sweeten the wards like the waft of an angel's wing."

At a meeting of the Banff County Council, Mr. T. G. Duff, of Drummur, proposed on behalf of the Technical Education Committee, that £150 should be devoted to the purpose of giving instruction in nursing. The Committee believe that the money would be sufficient to enable them to give instruction in every parish in the county, and that one teacher would be able to cover all the localities in one season. The proposal was agreed to. We fear, however, that if one itinerating teacher visits every parish in the County of Banff "in one season," as a teacher of nursing, and at the close of it the knowledge thus imparted is held to be sufficient that the Technical Education Committee will not get a profitable return for the outlay of the £150 above mentioned.

The Belfast Guardians have asked the Irish Local Government Board to hold a sworn enquiry into the complaints of the nurses in their Workhouse Infirmary, both concerning the dietary, and also the arrangements of the Nurses' Home. It would seem that a large majority of the Board are in favour of alterations being made, and it is difficult therefore to understand why the Guar-

dians should appeal to the higher authority to settle what after all is a domestic matter.

What has a nurse's baptismal certificate to do with her qualifications for a post? Nothing. Yet at a recent meeting of the Armagh Guardians it was proposed and seconded that the nurse appointed be requested to produce her baptismal certificate. The contrary was proposed, seconded, and carried, whereupon Mr. Lavery, the proposer of the original resolution, said he would take other means to make the nurse produce the certificate, when an unseemly wrangle took place. Mr. Simpson saying that there was no use in Mr. Lavery's using threats, and Mr. Lavery retorting that he should say just whatever he wished, and he begged to say most emphatically that he would insist on the certificate being produced. It is regrettable that the appointment of a nurse should have been made the occasion of a feud on religious question, for the appointment rested between two nurses, one a Roman Catholic and the other believed to be a Protestant, and the point at issue apparently was not which candidate had the best nursing qualifications, but which of the rival religious parties on the Board could get in its candidate.

Some years ago the world was thrilled by the story of the heroic work done amongst the lepers of Robben Island by Father Damien, a work which continued until he himself succumbed to this terrible disease, and won a martyr's crown as truly as those who formerly perished by the executioner's sword, or were devoured by wild beasts. At Mandalay, in Burma, and also in Rangoon, and Moulmein, Father Wehinger, with a band of Sisters, is devoting himself to the care of the lepers of that region, and recently at Mandalay a fine building has been opened by Sir Frederic Fryer, Governor of Burma, as a Leper Asylum.

The Governor expressed the great pleasure he felt in opening St. John's Leper Asylum, which, he said, had grown up under his eyes until it had reached its present proportions. He said, however that the asylum was not yet complete, and he hoped it would be possible to provide for the requirements which Father Wehinger had detailed. He hoped they would be able to provide for these, but the funds were exhausted, and there was little left to supply the barest necessities, which were all that the staff asked for. All lepers without distinction of caste, creed, or nationality were admitted to the Asylum, no distinction was made amongst the recipients of the charity, and similarly there should be none amongst its supporters.

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