

## Nursing Echoes.

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The "Pioneers," on Thursday, discussed with their usual animation the resolution "That it is desirable that Trained Nurses should be Registered by the State," at their Club in Grafton Street.

Should nurses who are incapacitated for duty by bicycling accidents unconnected with their work be paid their salaries during the time they are off duty?

The question recently came up before the Battersea and Wandsworth Guardians. While we are in favour of a nurse being treated with all generosity, and certainly Committees and Guardians do not usually err on the side of hardness where a sick nurse is concerned, we are of opinion that a limit should be set to the time that a nurse is paid her salary when incapacitated for work under circumstances unconnected with her professional duties.

At a recent meeting of the Burnley Guardians it was agreed, on the proposition of Mr. Irving, to refer to the General Purposes Committee the question of the outdoor nursing of the sick poor. We have always believed that the work of the "parish doctor" should be supplemented by that of the "parish nurse." The costly and unsatisfactory workhouse wards might in many instances be abolished if this plan were adopted, more especially if Guardians followed Mr. Sydney Holland's advice and sent their acutely sick cases into the wards of local hospitals at a fixed rate.

Already the recommendation of the Departmental Committee of the Local Government Board to reduce the number of Superintendent Nurses is causing reactionary steps in this direction. We are informed that the L.G.B. has consented to the abolition of the position of Superintendent Nurse at the East Grinstead Workhouse. The present holder of this appointment at once intimated to the Board of Guardians her readiness to resign provided the Board gave her adequate compensation for loss of office. This the Board refused, and the nurse has now appealed to the Local Government Board. The sooner the Local Government Board creates a Nursing Department to deal with nursing matters the better it will be for all concerned, more espe-

cially for the sick, who are the chief sufferers from the present system.

"A good nurse is half the battle," said Alderman J. F. Wilson at the annual meeting of the Nurses' Home, held in the Middlesbrough Council Chamber. With that remark many residents in the borough who, in time of need, have been devotedly tended by the nurses from the Home will cordially agree. As year follows year and the annual statements of the unselfish work performed by those connected with the institution are made public there is to be found much cause for surprise that with so small a staff so great an amount of healing and restoring work has been accomplished. Unceasingly, without any sign of weariness, no matter how great the strain, and marked by a kindness which is delightful to behold, Miss Purvis and her colleagues perform to the full, and even to overflowing, their duties. The hopes expressed that the £38 deficit would soon be cleared off, it is to be anticipated, will soon be realised, for of the charitable organisations in Middlesbrough claiming public support the Nurses' Home may justly be recognised to be one of the most deserving.

Are Guardians justified in dismissing a nurse who refuses re-vaccination? If they believe that her presence in their institution in an unvaccinated condition is a danger to herself and others, then they must surely be right to dispense with her services. It must be remembered that nurses in workhouses are more likely than any others to come in contact with small-pox cases, and, while few persons will be prepared to affirm that vaccination is entirely satisfactory from every point of view, in our present state of knowledge it is certainly the only reliable protection we possess against small-pox.

The question has recently come before the Ellesmere Guardians, owing to the refusal of Nurse Key to submit to re-vaccination. The matter has, however, been adjourned for three months to enable the Board to obtain further experience as to the nurse's capabilities.

We have been somewhat amused in reading a batch of testimonials of a candidate for a Matron's appointment to observe one from an eminent surgeon, who states that, in his opinion, the candidate will work harmoniously with others, as in the institution with which she is at present connected "incompatibility of temper is a complaint which is not allowed." If this up-to-date school has discovered the anti-toxin for the disease, surely in the public interest it should be made known. If not, then, although the evidence of its existence may be taboo, we fear that even the College of Surgeons itself cannot eradicate the complaint wherever humans congregate.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)