

the Home of Rest; Miss Agnes Atthill, Superintendent of the Nurses' Institute; Mrs. Foster, Matron of the Belper Workhouse; Sister Trow, the Convalescent Home, Holbrook; and Miss Sinclair, the Borough Asylum.

Miss Wise, Matron of the male department of the Stirling District Asylum, Larbert, N.B., whose appointment as Matron of the department for private patients in connection with the Edinburgh Royal Asylum we chronicled last week, is a certificated hospital nurse, and received her general training in the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, and in the Royal Infirmary, Perth. She also holds the Diploma of the Medico-Psychological Association for Proficiency in Mental Nursing, and received her mental training at the Perth District Asylum, Murthly, N.B. Miss Wise has thus had a very complete training and a most successful career, and she is held in high esteem for the work she has done in perfecting the organisation of the male department of the Stirling District Asylum at Larbert by the extensive employment of female nurses and of hospital methods. This work of reform and progress is considered by those in a position to judge to mark a new era in the nursing and care of the insane, and has attracted attention at home and abroad.

In the House of Commons recently, on the discussion of the Irish Estimates, Mr. Farrell called attention to the expulsion of nuns as nurses from the Granard Union.

Mr. Wyndham said that the incident was regrettable. It was, however, connected with a change which everybody must approve, one for raising the standard of nursing in Irish hospitals. Generally speaking, nuns were doing great service as nurses. Above all, their ministrations were acceptable to the patients. At the same time, they did not care to perform some of the hospital duties, and therefore trained nurses were essential.

Mr. Healy protested against poor Irish ratepayers being compelled to pay for medical fads. Why should a peasant who could not afford to summon a doctor to his wife in her confinement be forced to find money for highly skilled attendance on some degraded woman in the workhouse? What did Ireland do for two thousand years before medical faddists gained power at Dublin Castle? They were just as strong and healthy as the present generation. But now we heard every day of some new disease. Such discoveries were never mentioned in Chaucer, or Shakespeare, or the Greek poets.—The tenor of Mr. Healy's remarks shows the difficulties with which those who would fain do their duty by the sick poor committed to their charge have to contend. The facts divulged at the sworn inquiry at Granard, concluded this week, are well-nigh incredible.

In his half-yearly report Mr. Agnew, the Local Government Board Inspector, suggested various improvements which were desirable in connection with the nursing of the sick at the Belfast Workhouse. Amongst them was a recommendation that a sufficient addition be made to the nursing staff to enable the guardians to dispense entirely with pauper attendants. He added that the medical, surgical, and nursing staff were zealous and skilled in the performance of their duties, and that the patients were treated with every kindness and consideration. There can be but one opinion as to the employment of pauper attendants on the sick: it should be absolutely abolished.

The examinations at the Nursing School of the Maison de Santé Protestante, Bordeaux, took place on June 30th. The school having adopted the programme proposed by the Conseil Supérieur de l'Assistance Publique last December, the practical and elementary examination was to take place for the first time, and created great excitement. The jury was formed by M. Cadein, chairman of the Board of Guardians, and Drs. Monod, Moussons, Chavannaz, and Virdelet, but many other doctors and guardians came to witness the examination. The four candidates (second-year probationers) and ten first-year probationers, in their neat blue uniforms, big white aprons, cuffs and collars, once more attracted great admiration, for neatly-dressed and ladylike nurses are still a great novelty in France.

The programme for the practical examination deeply interested the jury, who picked out a great many questions. It was considered quite remarkable that each candidate did in an alert, careful, and able way what was asked of her—without talking. A silent examination! What a revolution in French ideas as to nurses' studies! Under-sheets were changed—the patient being in bed—and draw-sheets passed, urine tested, patients carried, operating-table put in different positions, fracture appliances prepared, bandages applied, bed for laparotomy prepared, catheters and other objects brought, Paque- lin's cautery made ready, temperature, pulse, respiration charted on dictation, instruments picked out when asked for, &c., each candidate being questioned and receiving notes from each of the four doctors. The proofs took place in a female medical ward, a male surgical ward, and a gynaecological ward. The theoretical examinations followed, and the four candidates acquitted themselves satisfactorily. But here came up about twenty ladies, who suppose they learn nursing by attending lectures and out-patient departments. They "answered like students," said the doctors, who were amused at it, joked the would-be doctors, and said everywhere in town how wonderful had been the practical examinations of the *real* nurses!

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)