

helps. That most dangerous person, the "cottage nurse," should be given her *coup de grâce*.

As an instance of what can be done to assist the sick poor in emergencies, attention was drawn to the part played by Miss Pye, a former Superintendent of the Ipswich Nurses' Home, through whose efforts an epidemic of measles was practically stamped out. She collected £100, and with that sum obtained nurses who went amongst the poor and saved the lives of numbers of children. We congratulate the Committee and Miss Hunt, the Lady Superintendent of the Home, on the excellent report presented.

Two cases have recently been reported, in which a refractory pauper attacked a doctor in one instance and a nurse in the other. At a recent meeting of the North Allerton Guardians the Master reported a most aggravated and repeated assault by a woman in the infirmary upon the workhouse nurse. As the doctor had reported the woman responsible for her actions, the Guardians decided that if she were again refractory she should be proceeded against before the magistrates. This is the only method of dealing with a certain class of persons.

Recently the Wandsworth and Clapham Guardians appointed a special committee to consider the question of the amount of food consumed by the officers. The report has just been presented. In a tabulated statement it is shown that the average weekly consumption of potatoes and vegetables by each officer was: at the Workhouse 12 lb., at the Infirmary 11 lb., and at the Tooting Home 8 lb. Of meat, fish, and bacon the average consumption per head was: at the Workhouse 8 lb., at the Infirmary 8 lb., and at the Tooting Home 7 lb. 6 oz. The Committee point out the large consumption per head by officers at the Workhouse and Infirmary as compared with Tooting Home, and state that they have impressed upon the Master and steward the necessity of seeing that no more food is issued from the stores than is absolutely consumable by the officers of the establishments. The Committee also report that they have requested the steward of the Infirmary to consider whether it would not be possible to amalgamate some of the single dinners, and so avoid having a number of small joints. In the course of a discussion on the report, Mrs. Beveridge said there was a preponderance of female officials at Tooting Home. The proportion was much greater than at the Workhouse or at the Infirmary. The Committee considered that this was one of the reasons why there should be a diminution in the amount of food consumed at Tooting Home. At the Workhouse the men and women were equal in number, but at Tooting there was a large number of females. The Committee were assured that there was no waste at the Workhouse,

and whatever was left from dinner was served up for supper. The doctors wished the nurses to have three meals a day. The Guardians, however, do not seem satisfied, for they have asked the Committee to report again on the matter.

Certainly to ask for three meals a day—which should be nourishing in quality and suitably served—is not an excessive demand for hard-working nurses. In the past, women have suffered much in health, in physique, even in wage-earning capacity, because they have reduced their expenditure on food to the irreducible minimum, and have lived on tea and buns, cheap pies and pickles, rather than take pains to provide themselves with a nourishing and wholesome diet—which, be it noted, is by no means synonymous with expense. It merely means some knowledge of the relative value of food-stuffs, and a little personal trouble. Women are saner now, and realise that the preservation of the first asset of the wage-earner, sound health, is largely a matter of diet. Insufficient and unsuitable food are responsible for many a nervous breakdown, for dyspepsia, anæmia, and other ills in working women, and it is their duty, as it is the duty of any institutions which cater for them, to arrange for a dietary sufficient in quantity and appetising in quality.

At a meeting of the Mile End Board of Guardians, Mr. Musto, a member of the Board, commented strongly on the action of the London Hospital authorities in transferring four children from the hospital to the infirmary during the previous fortnight, which meant, he said, the disfranchising of the parents. If steps were not taken to prevent it, many of the poor of Stepney and Mile End would be deprived of their rights of citizenship, through no fault of their own, before the winter was over.

The disfranchisement of the fathers of the children, not of the *parents*, is the question involved, the disfranchisement of their mothers being already enforced by a Legislature conceived to be liberal in its outlook. We notice how tenaciously, and rightly so, men cling to their rights of citizenship. Surely this should convince them of the wrong done to half the nation by its disfranchisement.

The ward at the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum which is to be nursed by male nurses is to be worked on the principle of the eight hours' shift. We wonder if men had not been employed how long it would have been before the managers arranged for an eight hours' working day for the women nurses. That the work is as arduous and unpleasant for them as for the male nurses would, we fancy, not have penetrated the masculine intelligence so quickly. Men have a way of enforcing their demands for an eight-hour day, which, in the

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