

during the past five years. In this district the valuation is only 12s. 2d., while the rates amount to 5s. 10d. on houses and 2s. 9d. on lands. It will therefore be seen that it would not be practicable to provide a nurse at the expense of the rates. In many parts of this district the people have to journey a whole day across the bogs to obtain medical relief. They have also had to be kept alive by special relief works on eight occasions in the past twenty years."

We are glad that Miss Hayes, the Lady Superintendent of the County Tyrone Hospital, Omagh, and the Protestant nurses on the staff, have sent strongly-worded protests to the Committee of Management on the remarks made at the last meeting of the Board reflecting on the Protestant members of the nursing staff. Miss Hayes says:—"I wish to state since I was appointed fourteen years ago no such occurrence as Monsignor M'Namee mentions has taken place. Your staff is composed of honourable young women, who deserve your confidence and also your protection against such accusations as have been made, which the public might believe referred to them."

The Protestant nurses say they have heard with great pain that it was stated by Monsignor M'Namee that they were going through the hospital cursing the Pope over and over again; that on one occasion there was great horseplay amongst the nurses, and that the patients and nurses were wrangling amongst themselves. They say, further, that some of them have been in the institution for the last thirteen years, and they beg emphatically to contradict and protest against each and all of the above statements. That the public recognition of their character, discipline, and conduct is of the utmost importance to them as women workers, and they ask for fair play.

Monsignor M'Namee said he had not referred to the present staff. Surely, then, he should have said so when he raked up incidents which happened at least fourteen years ago, if they happened then, which we beg leave to doubt.

The Bishop of the diocese has definitely refused to allow the nuns to resume work in the Granard Hospital, and urges the Board to proceed at once to make the best permanent provision for the sick poor committed to their care. The Guardians have decided to appoint a trained nurse. Let us hope the controversy will now cease.

Lady Curzon's scheme for providing nurses for sick Europeans in civil stations is still under consideration; and Surgeon-General Sir Benjamin Franklin, Mr. Risley, Home Secretary, and Mr. Baker, Finance Secretary, are being taken into counsel. The difficulty mainly is to devise a sound financial basis for the scheme without unduly curtailing the scope of its operations.

The Hospital World.

KING EDWARD'S HOSPITAL FUND.

The Prince of Wales presided on Monday, at Marlborough House, at a meeting of the General Council of King Edward's Hospital Fund, when it was announced that a lordly sum, £100,000, was to be distributed among the London Hospitals for the present year. His Royal Highness made an important speech, and encouraged the work of the Council in several sensible directions. He reminded those present that the needs of the hospitals for the forthcoming year could only be met by the public providing a million of money. King's College Hospital's policy in moving to South London was warmly approved, and the establishment of one first-rate orthopædic hospital, instead of three less efficient institutions, was considered desirable.

The Rev. G. Guinness Rogers had some warm words of praise for the manner in which the noble body of men [why not women also?] who minister with patience and skill and with success to the wants of the sick perform their duties in hospitals. To the unflagging zeal day and night of the great army of nurses, who also minister to the needs of the sick, no reference was made.

Indeed, this Royal fund is showing a very reactionary spirit, and setting a very undesirable example in ignoring women's part in healing and hospital management. What, after all, constitutes a well-managed and efficient hospital? What provides comfort, cleanliness, and happiness for the patients—good order, discipline, and economy in any institution? *Women's work provides it.* Her expert domestic knowledge, her power of detailed organisation, her capacity for drudgery, and lack of greed—for do not women work double the hours that men work for half the pay—make voluntary charity possible; without it even King Edward's Fund could not keep our hospitals open for a day. Then why is this national asset ignored by the Council of the Fund?

The King's Fund does not only give financial help to hospitals, but it undertakes the responsibility of inspection. Which of its members is qualified to inspect the nursing and domestic departments of hospitals? None of them in our opinion. Observe this item in the list of awards:—

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL, Mortimer Street, £1,500 (£1,000 annual to meet deficiency). The committee note with satisfaction abolition of the practice of keeping butter in the lockers by beds.

Is it presumable that if there were women on the Committee of the Hospital Fund that this hospital would have received hundreds of pounds year after year while still indulging in such a prehistoric, dirty, and dangerous custom as that just discontinued? We think not.

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