

hospital. It certainly does seem somewhat unreasonable to make poor ratepayers responsible for large fees for the treatment of the infirmary staff.

The Sunderland Borough Asylum Committee have had under consideration the application of the nurses and attendants employed at the Ryhope Asylum for a re-arrangement of duties whereby they would be able to have at least one full Sunday off in a month. Since the question arose the Committee have made investigations, and have found that the staff at Ryhope are on an equality in the matter with most other similar institutions, and better off than some. The Committee have now come to the conclusion that to grant the clear Sunday would mean the engagement of six additional attendants, so that they cannot see their way clear to alter the standing rule of one Sunday off from 9 a.m. once a month. They suggest, however, that the attendants should come to some arrangement amongst themselves which would enable those who have to leave before nine o'clock to catch an early train for home to get off once in six weeks.

This is not at all a satisfactory solution to the difficulty, and means that instead of providing a sufficient staff to enable the attendants sufficient rest and holiday they must enjoy those privileges at the expense of the overwork of those left on duty, or more probably, by the neglect of the patients. If six more attendants are required to make the hours of work reasonable for all, it is the duty of the Sunderland Borough Asylum Committee to employ them. Most of the blame for asylum scandals are the result of excessive hours on duty and overwork of the attendants.

At the annual meeting of the Royal Victoria Hospital at Belfast, the Earl of Shaftesbury, who presided, upon rising to move the adoption of the report, said that he need hardly tell those present that it was the greatest pleasure to him to do so, and indeed it was a source of immense gratification to him that he should have been given the privilege on that occasion—not because the report was a highly satisfactory one, that would gladden the hearts of those who were interested in the welfare of the hospital—but also because it was one that would gladden the hearts of the husband and wife, to whose zeal, energy and devotion in the cause they were indebted for this magnificent building—he meant Mr. and Mrs. Pirrie. Not only did it gratify him to move a report of that kind, but also because it gave him an opportunity of expressing his deep gratitude to the medical science and the medical profession of the city, as represented by his friends Sir Wm. Whitla and Dr. Calwell, both of whom gave a large amount of their time to the hospital, and to his good friend Dr. Manley for the complete restoration to health which he (the

speaker) now enjoyed after his illness of last summer.

Lord Shaftesbury expressed his thanks to medical science in Belfast generally, and not only to the medical science, but to the nursing science of the city was he indebted. Belfast, he understood, was very fortunate in its nursing staffs, and he was sure that Miss Bostock, the Lady Superintendent, would like him to mention that this hospital in particular was specially fortunate. Nurses were sent from Belfast, he understood, not only throughout the North of Ireland, but to all parts of the country, and judging from the nurses which came from that excellent institution in Frederick Street of Miss Newman's, judging from the nurses who looked after his case, if all were as good, as willing as they were—as he had no doubt they were—then he was not surprised that nurses from the city were met in all parts of Ireland and were universally respected.

This sounds quite like the good old times when nurses were the "guardian angels" of the sick, and before their work had become associated with cloaks and bonnets in the dock. Let us hope that State Registration—the Rubicon between the trained and reputable, and the untrained and the disreputable—may do much to reinstate an honourable profession in public estimation.

Now, this whole body of honourable workers is at a most unjust disadvantage, when any criminal may pose as a trained nurse, and hide her true character under a uniform.

We note from the report of the Indian Up-Country Association for 1904 that although still in debt to the extent of Rs.2,030, the Association is in a better financial position than it was at the end of the previous year. The total revenue, including the Government grant of Rs.1,800 and interest on investments in Government paper, amounted to Rs.18,448, and the expenditure to Rs.18,106, leaving a credit balance of Rs.342. Eighty-one cases were treated during the twelve months, the fees amounting to Rs.9,776. The Committee complain that the very moderate fees asked by the Association for the attendance of the highly-trained nurses on the staff are not always readily paid, and that, at times, much unpleasantness is experienced in collecting fees from people perfectly well able to pay.

From nurses working on their own in London we often hear the same complaint, that they have to wait weeks, sometimes months, for their fees after they leave a case. This is one of the reasons why co-operations of private nurses have come into favour, as the impersonal Committee, through its officers, collects the fees for members.

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