

The Lambeth Guardians and those responsible for the management of their schools at West Norwood are engaged in an attempt to discover an ideal diet for the school children, and the experiment, which has been in operation for a month, promises to be successful. Various additions have been made to the bill of fare, and the table of changes in the daily meals now extends over fourteen days. Porridge, which has always been inseparable from Poor Law administration, has been banished from the list during the summer months, brown or white bread and jam being substituted for breakfast twice a week. Coffee is substituted for cocoa, and tea has been introduced again instead of cocoa in the afternoon.

A porter at the Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis, Maida Vale, W., was charged last week with stealing £27 belonging to the hospital. It appears that on May 17th the Secretary handed a cheque for this amount to the Matron, Miss Keith, who gave it to the accused to cash at the bank. This he did, but did not account for the money, and no more was heard of him till June 3rd. At that date he called at the hospital, and during an interview with the Matron produced a razor and threatened to cut his throat unless she promised he would not be prosecuted. The Matron took the razor from him, and he was subsequently arrested. It is greatly to be regretted that the Matron did not cash the cheque herself, or give it to some responsible person to cash for her, as so large a sum must be a great temptation to a man with the wages of a porter which average about £1 a week.

In the course of the discussion in the *Daily Express* on hospital mismanagement, a correspondent asserts that a case was admitted to a London hospital for operation a little over eighteen months ago, and was progressing satisfactorily. On the day before Christmas Day, the House Surgeon and Sister of the ward told the patient that his bed was required, and that he would have to go out that day. The man got up and dressed, and at four o'clock in the afternoon he was turned straight from a warm bed into the drizzling sleet. Eventually a friendly constable took him to his (the constable's) own home, where for weeks he lay suffering from congestion of the lungs, and is now a hopeless invalid. The correspondent asserts that it afterwards transpired that the ward from which he had been turned out was required by the nurses, students, and staff for their Christmas dance.

If this is the case, it is open to such grave censure that we are of opinion our contemporary would best serve the public interest by publishing the name of the hospital concerned. We have frequently expressed our opinion as to the incongruity and unsuitability of dances in institutions devoted to the cure or

care of sick people, and to the relief of the dying, but that a ward should be cleared of sick persons for a function of this nature is inconceivable. What does the King's Fund say? Further, in which hospital do the visiting staff delegate the discharge of patients to a House Surgeon?

"Florence Nightingale sends cordial good wishes for the future usefulness of nursing home, and prays for blessing on work and workers." The above telegram was read at the opening, by the Bishop of Southwell, of the Nightingale Nursing Home at Derby, established under the auspices of the Royal Derbyshire Nursing and Sanitary Association. In his address, the Bishop commented upon the extraordinary progress made in recent years in nursing and medical science.

A large and influential meeting was held in the Town Hall, Reading, last Saturday afternoon, when it was unanimously resolved to form a nursing association for the county. Miss Hughes, representing the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses, with which this new association will be affiliated, addressed the meeting, and Mrs. Benyon, the Lord Lieutenant's wife, announced that already about £300 in donations had been spontaneously promised besides annual subscriptions.

Should nurses at a small-pox hospital keep dogs? We are of opinion they should not, and that there is grave danger of the spread of disease by their agency. The point was raised at an ordinary meeting of the Felling Urban District Council, where a member said that it appeared the dogs kept at the small-pox hospital were allowed to roam about the streets. Further, a person had asserted that the dogs had worried several of his fowls, and he wanted to know if he could get compensation.

For the nurses Dr. Peacock said that men had been in the habit of climbing over the fence and frightening the nurses by walking into the hospital. They kept the dogs to frighten away trespassers. They did not come in contact with the patients. The nurses had offered to pay compensation for the ducks. It was not safe to have tramps such as were about the brick kilns taking shelter in the hospital grounds.

Obviously it is the duty of the Council to make adequate provision for the safety of the nurses, but we see no reason why they should be permitted to keep dogs in an infectious hospital.

The Birmingham City Guardians have, in spite of the inevitable hostile comment, decided to build a new Nurses' Home, and to provide for additional nurses. We think that in view of the numerical strength of the nursing staff to the patients the decision is a wise one. As a local contemporary puts it: "When it comes to a question of the efficiency of the arrangements for the sick and helpless the economist has to give way."

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