

and this being so, the danger arises of Nurses just now coming to think too much of themselves, both separately and as a profession. Foreseeing a danger is not conquering it, however, and yet an open enemy is better than a secret foe. To be alive to the temptation at least gives a chance of battling with it, and that to over-estimate themselves is one of the special temptations of a Nurse's life at present, few probably will dispute. In the face of the existing 'hero-worship,' the analogy of the treatment of physical and mental overstrain may perhaps prove a useful warning. How to meet an expected reaction is, we all know, to be prepared for it. It may often be warded off by judicious treatment, a right knowledge of our own feelings; and a true appreciation of the difference existing between the estimate the public have of us and what we know ourselves to be, must have a salutary effect. Moreover, an honest love of our work, and a right understanding of what Nursing *really* means, shorn though it may be of all 'glamour and tinsel,' will prove a sheet anchor in the face of the storm, enabling us, too, to weather the strain of the reaction which some day may come and forcibly lower the level of our present standing place."

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On the 21st of April, Miss ALICE DANNATT, who again during the Winter Session lectured on "Domestic Hygiene," for the Lindsay County Council, gave her one hundredth and last lecture of the session. The growing audiences (total number 8,145), the willingness of the people to themselves do practical work, the kind expressions of complete satisfaction, and the many invitations to Miss DANNATT to "come again," were a few of the evidences of the interest which was taken in the many subjects that were simply and plainly taught.

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THE Cheltenham Board of Guardians have earned for themselves an unpleasant notoriety concerning the manner in which they manage their nursing affairs, as a report of their late meeting in the *Cheltenham Examiner* shows. Miss LAMBERT, the Nurse, lately recognized her position—"owing to the strain laid upon me, the duties cannot be carried out in an efficient manner." The following report was read by Mr. E. H. PARSONAGE:—

"At a meeting of the House Committee, held at the Workhouse on Wednesday, the 30th of May, the circumstances attending the death of George Simpson (aged 90) were inquired into, and, after hearing Dr. Pruen's statement, your Committee are of opinion that death resulted from natural causes. They next inquired into the circumstances attending the death of Jane Saunders (aged 33). The woman was admitted from the Tramp Ward (with her two children) on the 12th May; typhoid fever developed, and the woman died of pneumonia supervening on the 21st. A woman named Harris was confined on the 15th, and Nurse Lambert was obliged, in the absence of any efficient assistance, to nurse both cases herself—a proceeding, in our opinion and in that of Dr. Pruen, of a highly dangerous character. Acting on the advice of our medical officer, we are of opinion that it is necessary to provide an additional Nurse in the Female Hospital, and we recommend that steps be at once taken to engage such Nurse.

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A supplementary report from the Committee, dated the 6th, was now presented, and was as follows:—"The Committee considered the letter of resignation received from Nurse Lambert, and had an interview with her upon the

subject, when she expressed her willingness to withdraw her resignation if the Board appointed an Assistant Nurse. The Committee are of opinion that there has been some strain thrown upon the Nurse, and that it is desirable for other reasons that an additional assistant should be provided in the Female Infirmary, and they therefore adhere to the recommendation contained in their report of the 30th ultimo, and trust the Board will sanction the appointment of an Assistant Nurse at a salary not exceeding £20 per annum."

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The consideration of the reports was taken separately. In moving the adoption of the first, Mr. Parsonage recapitulated circumstances which are fresh in the memory of the Board in order to show the necessity which existed for an additional Nurse in the Female Hospital. It was true that Nurse Lambert had the assistance of five pauper inmates, but only one of these could be regarded as at all competent to take her place. There were now 41 cases—38 of which were entirely bedridden—in that Hospital, and when the constant attention which the ordinary patients required at the hands of the trained Nurse in charge, was increased by midwifery or other cases of special difficulty and danger, the strain was far too much for one Nurse. Nurse Lambert's resignation was her own act, and no influence whatever had been brought to bear upon her. In nursing the cases mentioned in the report—the typhoid and midwifery—she was deprived of rest from Monday to Thursday, and for three weeks she had been kept almost a prisoner to the ward, without any opportunities for recreation. It had been suggested that extra assistance might be obtained from outside the workhouse in time of emergency. He (Mr. Parsonage) had been in communication with the District Nursing Association, and the answer was, 'Our staff is too small to let you have a Nurse altogether, and that is the only thing to meet your needs.' Even if special assistance could be obtained, it would entail considerable expense, perhaps even more than that of another regular Nurse, and would be an inconvenient and precarious arrangement."

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The Committee's proposal was supported by the recommendation of the Workhouse Medical Officer, Dr. PRUEN, and the motion was ably seconded by Mr. BENCE; and it will be almost impossible for the majority of persons to believe that the crying necessity for a second Nurse was most hotly opposed by a Mr. DUTTON, who argued—

"The time was when there was but one paid Nurse to both Hospitals; now there was one to each, with a large staff of inmates to assist. The Nursing arrangements had gone on for years without complaint, and it was not until the "female Guardian" put in an appearance that this cry for more Nurses was raised. He considered that it would be a mere waste of money to appoint another Nurse. A former Nurse had said that there was no experience to be gained in the Cheltenham Workhouse Infirmary—that there was nothing to do; and it was scarcely worth while appointing a second officer to help the first to do nothing."

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Another enlightened "guardian of the poor" wished to know the opinion of the "Master" on the subject, and Mr. MARGRETT excelled his colleagues in the force, if not reasoning, of his opinions, which amounted, in fact, to the high praise for our sex that the desire for the humane treatment of the sick pauper "was a fad of the lady guardians." We are glad to learn that the appointment of an additional Nurse was carried by 18 votes to 9—the three women, of course, voting in the majority.

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