

Assistant Secretary of the Local Government Board:—

"I am directed by the Local Government Board to state that they have had under their consideration, the nursing arrangements at the Workhouse of the Plymouth Corporation, in connection with the report made by their inspectors, Lord Courtenay and Dr. Fuller, after their visit to the Workhouse in November last. The Board are advised that the present staff of Nurses and paid attendants is not adequate to meet the needs of the establishment, and that the present system under which pauper night watchers are employed to attend on the sick, while the bed-ridden cases are unattended by night except by the day ward assistants, who are pauper inmates, is most unsatisfactory, the arrangement as regards the bed-ridden cases in particular being likely to result in a great increase of work to the day Nurse and much unnecessary suffering to the patients. It is also a grave defect in the administration that there is no paid officer in charge of the imbeciles' quarters at night. The Board direct me to enclose for the information of the Guardians, the accompanying memorandum by their inspector, Dr. Downes, on 'Nursing in Workhouse Sick Wards,' and to request that the Guardians will give the question their early attention in connection with the remarks in this letter and the accompanying memorandum, and will report to the Board the result of their consideration."

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Mr. BROWN said the letter opened up a very serious and large question, which ought to receive their most careful attention. As a member of the Visiting Committee, he had had it on his conscience that he was scarcely right in signing the weekly question as to whether the Nursing was efficient. It was decided to refer the matter to a special committee, consisting of the Visiting Committee and any member of the Board who desired to deal with the question. It is, therefore, to be hoped that arrangements for the efficient nursing of the sick will soon be made.

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In reading the following report, one cannot understand why the Labour Commission, which spent £50,000 on investigation—and, no doubt, wisely—failed to enquire into the hours of Nurses working in Workhouses:—

"At Liskeard Board of Guardians on Saturday, the Medical Officer (Dr. Nettle), reported that the lavatories and baths in the Workhouse were not sufficient, the distribution of hot and cold water was inadequate, and an Assistant Nurse was required for night duty and for the infectious ward.—Questioned on the subject, the master said there was only one trained Nurse in the house. In the event of a case of scarlet fever or other infectious disease occurring they would be obliged to put an imbecile in charge of the patient, as was done on a former occasion. At present the Nurse was away on her annual holiday, and there was no one in charge of the Hospital at night. It was against the rules that the Hospital should be left as it was at present without any officer in charge. In the day time the matron looked after the patients.—Mr. A. R. Boucher went through the Hospital a month ago, and the Nurse told him there were 50 patients there. The number she considered rather low. On that occasion the Nurse was sitting next to an epileptic patient whom she could not leave, while in the room was a dying girl, who clearly wanted a person's care. In the night either the Nurse must have her rest greatly

disturbed, or the sick could not be properly looked after. It was the weak point of almost all workhouses that the nursing was inefficient and insufficient. In a short time the guardians would be succeeded by another body, and he suggested it would be well that one of their closing acts before they were dismissed should be the appointment of a second Nurse. They had a very good Head Nurse, but one woman was not sufficient to look after a minimum of fifty patients.—Mr. Rapson said the Nurse had several times complained that the work was greater than she could do properly, especially at night. She was sometimes obliged to be up nearly the whole night as well as day. The work was certainly too much for one person.—The Chairman said he went through the Hospital that morning, and was very pleased indeed with what he saw. It was satisfactory to find that though the Nurse was away on leave, the Hospital was looking clean and the patients were comfortable and well cared for. At the same time, a second Nurse was required.—Mr. Sobey remarked that the matron was asking for more help, and suggested that an additional officer might be appointed to assist both the matron and the Nurse.—The discussion terminated on Mr. Boucher giving notice to move at the next meeting the appointment of an Assistant Nurse."

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As the question of Nurses' examinations is likely, in the near future, to become a subject of vital interest, the following Examination Questions, given to the pupil Nurses of the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, show that a thorough practical knowledge is necessary by the pupils at that Institution, if they are to pass:—

1. Describe the process of respiration, showing clearly what is accomplished by it.
2. (a) What is the nature of typhoid infection? (b) Tell what you know concerning its life and growth. (c) How is it frequently conveyed into the body? (d) By what channels does it leave the body? (e) How does it produce its destructive or injurious effects?
3. Describe the precautions you would take in nursing a case of typhoid fever in order to prevent spread of disease from that case.
4. (a) Describe briefly the nature of consumption. (b) Arrange food and surroundings in the case of a patient with advanced consumption, looking to the patient's welfare and the safety of those about him.
5. You are asked to give a patient (1) a dry hot air bath, (2) a moist hot air bath; describe how you would do so in each case.
6. Disinfect thoroughly a room which had been occupied by a patient with diphtheria.
7. What do you understand by sterilization? and describe the ordinary methods of sterilizing (milk for example).
8. Arrange food for an infant of two weeks from the time materials are received.
9. Define the terms *antiseptic* and *aseptic*. Write concerning the importance of *asepticism* and *antisepticism* in the care of surgical cases—to the extent of fifty words.
10. Define "shock." What means are employed to aid in the recovery from *shock*?
11. Explain three of the most important methods that may be employed to check and control hæmorrhages.
12. Define compound fracture, impacted fracture, complicated fracture, ununited fracture, greenstick fracture.
13. Define incised wounds, penetrating wounds, contused wounds.
14. Why are joint diseases more common in childhood than adult life?
15. Name the chief symptoms of a joint disease of the lower extremity.
16. Name the chief indications for treatment.

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