

sive to need the exclusive services of a Nurse. Sometimes the Nurse is resident, in which case she commonly undertakes the doctor's correspondence, does his book-keeping and serves, more or less, as his secretary.

For this end many office-nurses take a short course of instruction at a Business College so as to be grounded in shorthand, book-keeping and type-writing. These can always obtain good positions, as such training and knowledge really makes them the doctor's right hand.

ALL decisions by public or governing bodies are subject to criticism. We do not apply to Boards of Guardians the dictum of "the king can do no wrong." Lambeth has been getting itself into trouble over the K ward of the Infirmary. A request from Mrs. Grey came before the Board, asking that K ward, which apparently is not in use by the patients, might be used by the Nurses to hold a prayer meeting once a week. The request seems a very harmless one. There is no possible reason why the Nurses should not hold a prayer or any other meeting they choose in a ward which otherwise would be of no use to anyone. But the Board, in a wisdom which is not apparent on the surface, decided against their petition, and were strengthened in their refusal by "a minister of the Gospel." Perhaps this good gentleman disapproves of amateur praying.

EVERY broad-minded person will rejoice that the Hastings Board of Guardians has finally decided not to yield to the bigoted demand on the part of a few members of the Board that Miss Rogers, the Assistant Nurse, whose skill and kindness has been amply proved during her temporary engagement—should not be permanently appointed.

An animated discussion on the subject took place at a recent meeting. Mr. Ward said "as a constant visitor to the Infirmary he frequently heard good accounts of Nurse Rogers, especially in regard to her kindness to the sick during the night hours. He thought it would be a great mistake to consider the Nurses' religion."

Miss Love, one of the Guardians who originated the objection on sectarian grounds, to Nurse Rogers stated that "she went over the house one day when an inquest had been held upon a child. She saw Nurse Rogers and asked her 'how she got on,' and she replied, 'I am so anxious about the soul of this little baby, it died unbaptised, and its soul will go floating and wandering about, finding 'no rest.' She (Miss Love) tried to comfort the Nurse. She

thought her doctrine so unscriptural, and that it was not desirable that a Protestant institute should be obliged to have a Roman Catholic Nurse."

Mr. Perrins said "he objected to the infirmary being called a Protestant institution. It was a place maintained out of the rates contributed to by all grades and religions, Church of England, Unitarians, Catholics and Free-thinkers. For many years the vice-chair was occupied by a Roman Catholic, and he never once heard anyone take exception to him. Before they condemned a Nurse let them name some more substantial charge against her than that she read a prayer to a dying person." Nurse Rogers finally was appointed with only six dissentients.

THE Board of Guardians of Westminster have also made a determined effort to do away with the necessity for Nurses, lunatic attendants, cooks, porters and relieving officer stating their religion on the forms of application for any of the above offices.

The Rev. J. H. Cardwell spoke in favour of abolishing religious disability. He mentioned that some time since, when the Board had to choose between two candidates for the position of lunatic attendant, they selected a particularly "beery-looking" Protestant in preference to a most respectable Roman Catholic. He reminded the Board of the trouble their Protestant protégée had given them and strongly supported the resolution to the effect that suitable candidates with good qualifications should be appointed irrespective of creed. When the motion was put seven members voted in favour and seven against so that it fell to the ground.

THE late Earl of Pembroke was surely ill-advised in preventing, by legal means, the use as a private Hospital of a house which had been purchased from him in Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin. The clause in the original lease which enabled him to get a decision in his favour was a covenant enumerating several trades which should not be carried on in the house, "or any other offensive or noisy trade, business, or profession whatsoever."

It is quite rational to object amid other of his property, to the establishing of a private Hospital where infectious cases are taken, but it is indefensible to class a house where general and surgical patients are taken, as coming within the meaning of "an offensive or noisy trade."

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