

ported, but Mr. Green, who ought to have been grateful for being offered the choice of "blue if he liked," ungallantly suggested that "the damp wood floors in the Infirmary is a far better object for expenditure than the Nurses' clothes."

Whereupon Mr. Sadler presented an awful side to the discussion when he said: "The application for uniform is really only a disguised application for increase of salary"—a bit of Jesuitry on the part of the Nurses that no one had thought of! And Mr. Sadler further said: "The matter would end in the Guardians themselves being put into uniform"—a statement which produced some laughter.

Mr. Hillam then took the floor in this "Battle of the Gowns," and "could not see how a dress could make any difference in the nursing, from uniforms being worn." And he deprecated with horror the prospect of seeing the Lynn Nurses dressed as some were. Nothing could be more displeasing to him than "to see Nurses with those long tails floating about behind their hats" (the italics are ours).

Finally, on being assured that the uniform was only for indoor wear, and that consequently no "long tails" would be introduced into the head-gear of the Nurses, Mr. Hillam weakened, and the suggestion that indoor uniform should be adopted was carried by eleven votes against five. So that one step of professional advancement has been made at the Lynn Infirmary, because, after all, the fact of Nursing uniform being worn always makes for dignity and discipline.

The Leighton Board of Guardians will presently be called upon to "set their house in order," if the accounts of matters at the Infirmary are not exaggerated. We read of complaints from a Nurse—Nurse Andrews—culminating in her resignation, on account of alleged insults and rudeness on the part of a wardman. Incidentally in the inquiry held by the Board we read of "a wardman breakfasting with a Nurse," and of him "being constantly in the Nurses' apartments." It is hoped that, at the inquiry to be shortly held on the subject, all the grievances will be thoroughly discussed and fresh arrangements made. We are at the present time hearing too much of Infirmary scandals.

It was surely uncalled-for that Dr. Sandell in speaking at a meeting, held at Leighton Buzzard, to consider a scheme for providing a District Nurse, should say they "did not want the modern Nurse with stethoscopic and professional airs got up to show." It was also

most unwarrantable to state "that half the Nurses sent out were practically useless, and there were some whose lives would not bear the strictest investigation." It is a very serious matter for a medical man at a public meeting to throw stones in this way and make suggestions against the moral characters of Trained Nurses.

MISS KATHERINE LUMSDEN, the Hon. Sec. of the Aberdeen District Nursing Association, spoke most excellently on the subject of District Nurses at the bazaar recently held in aid of the Association in which she is so much interested.

"The District Nurses have done more than tend the sick, help back to health and strength many a shattered household, and bring soothing and comfort to the dying. They have gained a place in the hearts and homes of the poor. They have made friends with them in the hour of need, and in very many instances their influence has been fruitful of lasting good. It used to be a common notion that a 'Trained Nurse' was not the one to send amongst the very poor. 'We want,' it has been said, 'not a fine Nurse, but just a sensible working woman who can look after the children and clean the house and cook the dinner.' 'Well,' I have replied, 'and that is just what you will get—just what Her Majesty meant you to get.' The good District Nurse must be a sensible and certainly a 'working' woman, as well as a carefully trained Nurse. Good Nursing, like most other good things, cannot be had cheap. It takes a long apprenticeship to make a skilled workman; it takes years, not a few months, to make a skilled Nurse, and when she is made she is worth paying for."

THE members of the Trades' Council of Aberdeen took a practical interest in the District Nursing Bazaar, which owing to the co-operation of all classes realised a substantial sum to carry on the good work of Nursing the sick poor.

To read the Reports of the Special Commissioner of the *British Medical Journal* on the condition of some of the Irish Workhouse Infirmarys is like being transported into the dark middle ages of Nursing. We hear of infirm wards being locked on the outside from 7 p.m. until 6.30 a.m. The greater part of that time the ward is in darkness and the only assistance available is such as the inmates can render to one another. The so-called "sanitary arrangements" are gruesome to read of. Lavatories are at such a distance from the wards that open pails or buckets are furnished for the use of the old paupers at night. And in both the sick and infirm wards the pails remain unemptied till the morning. The vitiated and sickly air can well be imagined when it is remembered that little or no ventilation is possible. The Cootehill Union, Co. Cavan, must indeed be a ghastly place, to judge from the description given.

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