

Among other excellent alterations it is proposed to raise the term of training from two to three years—a reform which is gradually being introduced into a large number of Infirmaries. Many of the recommendations for improving the nursing régime of the Bow Infirmary have come from Dr. Downs, the Local Government Board Inspector. A fifth Superintendent of Nurses is to be appointed to act as Night Superintendent. She is to be stationed in the block for acute cases, but is to pay occasionally a surprise visit to the other blocks. The proportion of the first- and second-year probationers is to be so arranged as not to exceed one-third of the Nursing staff. We must congratulate the Bow Board of Guardians on the interest they show in arranging for the best Nursing possible for the patients for whom they are responsible. We have lately had so much reason for criticising the retrogression of some Boards in matters connected with their Nursing staffs, that it is a great pleasure to be able to cordially approve of the measures taken by the Guardians of the Bow poor to carry out their admirable Nursing scheme.

It is very cheering, mindful of the abuses which were disclosed some twelve months since, as existing at the Newton Abbott Infirmary, to read the report just presented to the Guardians by Dr. Culross, the Medical Officer. In this he speaks of the “remarkable improvement which has taken place through the adoption of trained Nursing, the institution of night Nursing, and the increase of the Nursing staff.” But while he heartily commends the steps towards progress which have been made, he wisely exhorts the Guardians not to rest satisfied until all the Nursing of the sick is put in professional hands. He says “so long as pauper inmates, irresponsible and ignorant as they must necessarily be, are employed in the Nursing of the sick, so long will the efficiency of the Nursing be handicapped, and the possibility of abuses exist.”

A new Infirmary is to be built, and it is hoped and believed that the Guardians, who have already shown such a spirit of reform, will continue the good work, and not rest satisfied till the Nursing programme is brought to a condition of absolute efficiency.

The Slough Board of Guardians recently considered an application from a Nurse of their Infirmary that she should be allowed ten shillings a week allowance instead of rations. The

Nurse pleaded that “when she was Nursing very bad cases she was not able to eat the ordinary diet for a day or so, and if she had the money she could have what she chose.”

The Local Government Board wrote to the Guardians on the subject as follows:—

“With reference to the proposal to assign to Fanny Rose an allowance of ten shillings per week in lieu of rations, I am directed to state that the experience of the Board has led them to the conclusion that the proposed arrangement is open to considerable objection, and they think it very desirable that the officers of the Workhouse should be assigned a fixed allowance and rations. Under the circumstances the Board must request the Guardians to be good enough to give the subject their further consideration.”

The Chairman of the Board stated that during the last six months thirteen different Unions had been advertising for Nurses, and they all offered money instead of rations, so that it was not unusual to do so. He therefore proposed that they should write to the Local Government Board, stating that they saw no necessity for disturbing the present arrangement, which worked so well.

The Master said a good many of the trained Nurses would not be satisfied with the rations they got there. Mr. Taylor said that if they took an office there they must take the rations.

Mr. Parry: If you get a good Nurse, you don't want to lose her on a point of that sort.

Mr. Capstick reminded the Board that their Nurse accepted the post on the condition that she had money instead of rations.

Mr. Taylor: The general principle of allowing money instead of rations is wrong.

The Chairman's suggestion as to writing to the Local Government Board was adopted.

We quite agree with Mr. Taylor that the general principle of allowing money instead of rations is wrong. In a large number of cases this means that the Nurse is not properly fed. It is so natural to economise at the expense of one's food, and to yield to the temptation of saving or spending on other things the money which should go to furnish the good and wholesome nourishment so essential to Hospital workers. “Money for rations” so often results in a diet of “tea and buns” and fancy food, which must in the long run interfere with the health and “staying power” of the Nurse.

With regard to the Master's statement that a good many of the trained Nurses would not be satisfied with the rations they got there, this is

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