

year a meeting on similar lines may be arranged for, at which all Nurses working in Districts affiliated to the Association, who can be spared from their work, if necessary for a night, may be present. On the occasion referred to, the Nurses were presented with their County Badges.

The Nurses' Library, the formation of which was commenced last year, is proving of great use. Several friends have been most kind in recommending books likely to prove helpful, and Miss Peter, the Inspector of the Queen's Institute, has kindly consented to set papers of questions to the Nurses every month on the books given them to read. This will enable the Nurses both to add to their knowledge, and to increase their efficiency. Some of the answers to these papers show great industry and neatness.

THE women Guardians of the Bedford Infirmary have been doing their duty bravely in the interests of the sick poor, and in the furtherance of trained and skilled Nursing for them. Miss Kelaart moved "That a trained Nurse be appointed to take night charge of the sick and infirm in the House."

Miss Rogers seconded.

Mrs. Bousfield supported. She said that some of the night Nursing was done by an imbecile man who did not in the least know how to treat the patients, and she thought they would be doing wrong to leave the inmates to such Nursing as that.

Two or three of the Guardians suggested that a third Nurse should be appointed, but that she need not necessarily be "trained," lest the two present Nurses should resent her superiority, and feel that a stranger should not be put over them.

Mr. Gibson said if they could get an untrained Nurse for £20 a year, they ought to do so, rather than pay £25 for a trained one.

Dr. Phillips said they spent money in thousands in that room, and if for the sake of saving £5 they chose an inferior Nurse, he thought on calm reflection, they would say that was not right. He then pointed out the advantages a hospital trained Nurse held over all others, and contended that they should put all feeling aside and endeavour to obtain the best Nurse possible. There need be no question of seniority, and if the present Nurses took a sensible view of the matter no difficulties would arise. For the sake of the inmates and the credit of the Board, he hoped they would obtain the best Nurse possible and pay her £25 a year, and he felt sure the ratepayers would not grudge the expense.

Mr. Hipwell thought the salary should be £20 to begin with, as they could raise it if the Nurse suited. She would be the junior Nurse and ought to have a trifle less money. He went on to express himself in favour of reducing salaries at every fresh appointment.

We do not know what occupation Mr. Hipwell follows, but we should like to know whether he would feel inclined to have his income lowered periodically. The suggestion of "reducing salaries at every fresh appointment" is one of the worst of the many preposterous suggestions made by Poor Law Guardians.

But the Nurses found a friend in Dr. Phillips, who said:—

He was as anxious for economy as any member, but they must pay the market price for a good article, and £25 was the rate of wages for good Nurses. He proposed that the salary be £25, but with no allowance for beer, as good Nurses did not take it.

Mrs. Bousfield seconded.

Mr. C. Pettit supported and said what they wanted was a trained Nurse to take the entire charge.

But we cannot quite agree with Dr. Phillips, that "good Nurses do not take beer." It is rather a sweeping statement. We know of very many excellent Nurses who take beer in their hospital life. Finally it was agreed to advertise for a third Nurse, at a salary of £25, with uniform and rations, but no beer. It is to be hoped that the progressive members of the Board will look to it that the third Nurse has been properly trained.

A VERY good proposition has been made that the success of the Shilling Testimonial Fund suggests that such a scheme might well be applied to the raising of funds for hospital purposes. A shilling is a sum which can so easily be spared, and yet in the aggregate it may be made to express large sums. A subscription on these lines has been opened by the *Kentish Express* on behalf of the Ashford Cottage Hospital.

THE Religious Tract Society has made a novel departure, which will be welcomed by many Nurses, and by still more invalids. In view of the difficulty of book holding and reading by those who are confined to bed, and of the constant wish of many invalids to read to themselves rather than be read to, the Society has had some short stories and some well-known hymns printed on long slips of linen, so that the weakest can hold and read these. We would suggest to the Society that some of the Morning and Evening prayers printed on these slips, would be welcomed by many sick people. The idea is an excellent one; it will meet a want which is often expressed, and we cordially wish it a wide development and much success.

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