

of their coats," are simply irresistible. It is only a pity that the knowledge of these clever Irish gentlemen on the subject of Nursing is as elementary as their fun is complex.

A particularly amusing discussion recently took place at the meeting of the Longford Guardians. The recommendations of the Local Government Board were, as usual, the "red rags to the bulls." It appears that the Longford Guardians have been anxious to appoint two probationers to work under the nuns, and appealed to the Local Government Board for their sanction to allow these probationers to be considered as *Trained Nurses*.

This the Local Government Board very properly refused to do, and informed the Board that the appointment of a Trained Night Nurse was imperative, and that the probationers should act in addition to, and not instead of, the Trained Nurse.

Mr. Duffy opened the ball by a somewhat wily suggestion, when he said:—

The Local Government Board says that although we may appoint these two, they insist on the Trained Nurse. Would it not be well for the Board to appoint these assistants, and see what the Local Government Board will say to the appointment of a Trained Nurse when we tell them that these girls are trained sufficiently to attend to the cares of the sick?

Mr. Duffy evidently thought that by the time the Local Government Board investigated the affair the probationers would have served long enough to be considered "trained."

Mr. Shevlin: I think it is within the power of the Board to appoint these Nurses at present, and I would ask the Board to appoint these two girls at a salary of £8 per year each, and if you do that and tell the Local Government Board that they are quite competent to do the work of this Hospital, I think they will not press this question further. It will be the wisest course, and we will avoid any further trouble in the matter.

Mr. Shevlin evidently had no high opinion of the discrimination of the Local Government Board, when he said "Let us *tell* the Local Government Board that 'the girls' are quite competent, and I think they will not press this question further."

At this point recriminations and "talking back" began, provoked by a very sensible remark on the part of the Clerk, who said:—

I am greatly afraid from what I know that the Local Government Board will force you to appoint a Trained Nurse.

Mr. Duffy: I second Mr. Shevlin's resolution, and if the Guardians adopt it they will go in for great economy, because I think the Local Government Board is determined to have us appoint a Trained Nurse which will cost this Union £25 or £30 a year. It is not that alone, but the moment the Trained Nurse comes here she will "boss the show," and "boss" you and me and everyone else. I advise you to appoint those two girls under the supervision of the nuns.

In the interests of dignity and for the protection of woman's honour, a gallant gentleman rejoicing in the characteristic name of O'Reilly—Here asked the reporters not to report Mr. Duffy's statement about the Trained Nurse "bossing the show." He said it was quite wrong and improper to use such expressions.

Mr. Duffy (continuing): I am glad that Mr. O'Reilly has such a mild idea of the sex as to think that no woman would do the "boss." He would urge on the Guardians to appoint these two girls at £8 a year each under the supervision of the good Sisters, who would see that they attended to the wants of the sick poor in the house.

Mr. Burbage: Where are the girls?

Mr. Shevlin: They are in the house.

Mr. Casey: These girls were objected to on the last day, and the doctor objects to them.

Mr. O'Reilly: The doctor does not object to them.

Mr. Shevlin then asked Mr. Campbell about one of the girls named Miss Browne, who was from his division.

Mr. Campbell said that this girl came into the work-house as a patient, but she was not dependent on the rates. Her father had £72 a year, and she was a nicely-reared girl.

Mr. O'Reilly: If I have any weight with you, gentlemen, I ask you to pass this resolution unanimously to-day, and let the Local Government Board make any objections they like afterwards.

Mr. Shevlin: I would ask the Guardians to do the same.

Mr. Casey: I would like to know who the girls are.

Mr. Shevlin: One of them is named Miss Browne and the other Miss Gannon. They both seem to be girls who would like to become Nurses.

Mr. Burbage wished one assistant Nurse to be appointed, and he complained that one of "the girls" had expressed her willingness to do the work for £5 a year, but she had run up her price, and now wished for £8, a sum he seemed to think exorbitant.

Mr. Duffy suggested making appointments that day.

Mr. Burbage: You cannot appoint a Nurse without advertising. Are you so stupid? I told you the last day I could not hammer sense into your heads, and you are the same still—(laughter).

Mr. O'Reilly said that his resolution was a feeler to the Local Government Board, and urged that it would be cheaper and better for the Guardians to carry it out. He did not want to enter a threat, but he knew that the same argument took place in Athlone before that Board was dissolved.

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