

Clerk: It is my duty to protect the Board, and I may tell you I am perfectly certain, from the letter of the Local Government Board, that you will be compelled to appoint a Trained Nurse.

At this announcement nearly every Guardian in the room spoke, and

Mr. O'Reilly's burly form rose amidst the turmoil. Speaking in a most agitated manner, and addressing the Clerk, he said: "I object very much, Mr. M'Cann, to your laying down the law from that chair, and it is not the first time you did it." Mr. O'Reilly then tore up his written resolution with the greatest excitement and threw it into the fire.

Mr. Shevlin: We will have to make you Board and all, Mr. M'Cann.

Mr. O'Reilly (grasping his hat and umbrella): Ap-point as many Nurses as you like now.

Chairman (excitedly): The Clerk is bound to guide the Board.

Mr. O'Reilly, about to leave the room, and turning to the Clerk, said: You cannot dictate to this Union, sir. I will not come into this Board Room as long as this is going on.

Chairman (again very heatedly): Mr. M'Cann is Clerk of this Board, and he has a right to guide it.

Mr. O'Reilly then left the room flashing anger on all the Guardians, and as he was opening the door,

Mr. Rhattigan said: Leave us a lock of your hair before you go.

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A poll was then taken, and it was decided to advertise for one Nurse, the salary to be fixed at £8 a year.

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We read that

The discussion did not, however, drop, and

Mr. M'Donnell expressed his regret that someone did not go to "mind Mr. O'Reilly for fear he would fall in the puddle."

Mr. Shevlin protested against this language, and said he was very sorry for the action the Board had taken that day.

Mr. Lenehan interrupted.

Mr. Shevlin: Don't interrupt me. I never interrupted you. You don't know how to behave yourself.

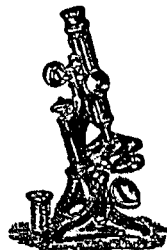
Mr. Lenehan: As well as you.

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And so the "happy family" went on. We await with some trepidation an announcement on the doubtful question as to whether Mr. O'Reilly's fate was as tragic as Mr. McDonnell's prophecy would lead one to fear, and are interested to know if the "lock of hair" was bestowed, as requested. But it seems rather hopeless to expect much reform in the Longford Infirmary so long as the Guardians spend their afternoons in such useless and personal discussions. Quite recently the St. Olave's Guardians decided that it was beneath the dignity of their Board to settle "women's squabbles." We commend to their perusal the above account of an entirely masculine meeting, and then, perhaps, they might come nearer home and recall some of their own.

Medical Matters.

COLD BATHS.



THE use of cold baths as a means of reducing the temperature of the body in various fevers is perhaps less common at the present time than formerly, and it is therefore important that Nurses should understand the limitations of the treatment.

It is chiefly valuable in the case of children suffering from

simple fevers, or that due to teething or similar irritation. In the case of adults, however, cold baths have been largely superseded by the employment of the cold pack, and this, of course, can be administered with much less exertion to the patients, and therefore, in some cases, with much greater safety than a cold bath can be given. Formerly, it was by no means unusual to give a cold bath for pyrexia occurring during typhoid fever. But it is certain that such exertion may be attended by very serious results to a patient suffering from that disease; for example, by the perforation of a typhoid ulcer, or by the occurrence of hæmorrhage in consequence of the congestion of the intestines caused by the rush of blood from the skin to the deeper organs. But when a cold bath has been ordered by the doctor, it is essential to remember that the best results are obtained by placing the patient in a bath of the normal temperature of the body and rapidly lowering this temperature by the addition of cold water, while the hotter fluid is permitted to run away. Then a patient should not, of course, be left while in this condition, because, even if quite conscious, he may be seized with a sudden attack of syncope, in consequence of the rapid lowering of the temperature of his body; and, thirdly, it is always well to remember that the depression of the temperature is accompanied by a considerable amount of general physical exhaustion, and that, therefore, it may be necessary to administer stimulants in order to prevent the patient from fainting. Some form of concentrated nourishment should always be given before a cold bath, and brandy should be at hand in case its administration becomes necessary.

BLOOD-LETTING.

THE old-fashioned remedy of blood-letting is obtaining a gradually increasing amount of favour. Formerly, of course, it was the beginning and often the end of medical treatment, and it was carried in its use to such an excess that it became discredited and feared both by the public and by the profession. The reaction, how-

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