

health, are very forgetful of the sick poor of the neighbourhood, as is shown by the financial condition of the Sussex County Hospital. It would be such a small matter for these rich visitors to leave a small donation to the Hospitals as a thank-offering for the pleasure and health they have derived from their periodical visits to this sea-side resort.

At the last meeting of the Bucks Board of Guardians, it was announced that no replies had been received in answer to the recent advertisement for a Nurse for the Infirmary. Mr. Boyse asked if it would not be as well to have a useful woman to assist the Matron, instead of a professional Nurse? We are glad the Board negatived such a proposal. It did not seem to occur to Mr. Boyse that a professional Nurse would be an essentially "useful woman" in an Infirmary!

THE Kingston Board of Guardians is somewhat distressed over "old clothes"—not the cast raiment of paupers, nor the old garments of officials, but the old uniforms of their Nursing staff! At a recent meeting the Clerk bewailed that the Matron informed him that the question of supplying Nurses' uniforms was getting rather serious, on account of the resignations of Nurses, for the new Nurses who took the places of the old ones refused to wear the uniforms of their predecessors, however little worn they might be. Dr. McSheehy said this matter had been brought under the notice of the Nursing Committee, and it would be considered by them in due course.

It would be exceedingly interesting to sit on that Nursing Committee and hear the discussions and arguments anent "old clothes for new." Although not connected with Kingston, we would beg to offer a suggestion to gentlemen on the horns of such a dilemma. The Nurses are perfectly right to refuse to wear the uniform of their predecessors, but it cannot be expected that the Infirmary can supply gratis a complete outfit to Nurses who only remain a month or so. The obvious way out of the difficulty would be to insert a clause in the regulations that, if a Nurse resigned in less than three months after entering the service of the Hospital, she should pay a proportionate amount of the cost of her uniform—the proportion, of course, to be on a sliding scale. This simple plan would settle all difficulty in the matter.

THE *West Middlesex Advertiser* has been extracting almost as much amusement from a meeting of

their Board of Guardians as if the affair had taken place in Ireland. A column, reporting the meeting, is headed, "Grave Charge against a Nurse: The Patient and the Poultrice." With such a serious head-line we naturally expected some very grave dereliction of duty. Glancing over the matter, we read that—

Mr. Court seconded the Report, and in doing so spoke in such awe-inspiring tones that all felt some tragic revelations were about to be made. They were: "Going round one of the wards, we found a patient who had had a linseed poultice on his chest for six hours. (A thrill of horror here ran through all present.) Yes, gentlemen, the poor man signed to us to come to him, and told us that the poultice had been on him for that time, and was cold and very uncomfortable. We spoke to the Nurse, who was attending to another patient at the time, and she, in a most insulting manner, told us she could not do two things at once, and that the patient must wait."

Mr. Prout: Who is the Nurse?

Mr. Keevil (forgivingly): It was very rude of the Nurse.

Mr. Hill: She should take a lesson from Mr. Keevil in manners.

Mr. Keevil (striking an heroic attitude): I did not feel insulted. I could not be insulted by a menial. (Cheers and laughter.) It is only my equal can insult me. (Laughter and cheers.)

Mr. Hill: It's funny that Mr. Court should have brought your complaint before the Board.

Mr. Keevil (with an injured air): We were going through the ward, when a poor old man who was dying with heart disease, told us in feeble voice that the poultice on the chest had not been changed since six o'clock that morning. I took the card, and found that the order of the doctor was that a fresh poultice should be placed on his chest every three or four hours. It had been on since six that morning.

Mr. Prout: But who was the Nurse?

Mr. Keevil: Nurse Murray. (Laughter.)

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Court says your attention was called to him?

Mr. Keevil: He called me as best he could, and when we spoke of it, the woman was most insulting—that is, if a menial can be insulting to a gentleman. (Shouts of laughter.)

Mr. Cooper (sympathetically): I can thoroughly understand your position, and sympathise with you. (Roars of laughter.) You behaved yourself in a noble way. (Loud laughter.)

Dr. Connor, speaking as an expert, remarked that the question of the poultice about which Mr. Keevil had made so much fuss was nothing.

We cannot refrain from quoting Mr. Prout's views on poultices in general. They are somewhat original. He said, "If poultices will keep people quiet, I should like to put one each on Keevil and Cooper. It seems funny to me that poultices are of no use. We might then just as

THE high favour with which the most eminent Medical Men regard **ÆSCULAP APERIENT WATER**, and the extent to which they habitually prescribe it, have brought into the market a variety of Aperient Waters, which are frequently of a variable nature, and very disappointing in their results. The Company is the only English Company in Hungary possessing its own Spring. The **BOTTLING and MANAGEMENT** are carried on **DIRECTLY** under **ENGLISH** supervision. **ÆSCULAP** may be obtained from all Chemists, Stores, &c

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)