

gagement and payment of subordinate officers at infectious establishments" should be amended accordingly.

THE Infirmary Committee of the London Union recently presented to the Board a form of advertisement for a Matron, in which it was made obligatory that candidates should have received a training of not less than three years in a Metropolitan Hospital.

Mr. Hadden suggested that in addition the Matron should be required to possess a certificate of competency in midwifery. Every good Nurse, he said, possessed such a qualification.

Mr. Cross said, as Chairman of the Committee, he would accept that suggestion. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Hadden asked whether it would not be better if the word Metropolitan Hospital were left out, as if it remained it would exclude a large number of candidates from great Hospitals in the provinces. He moved that the word Metropolitan should be deleted.

The Chairman said the Medical Officer had laid great stress upon the necessity of having the word included. He explained that he and the Assistant Medical Officers were London-trained men, and that the system of Nursing in the provinces was different from that of London. For that reason he preferred that a person trained in the Metropolis should be appointed.

Mr. Warrick having seconded the amendment, it was adopted and carried.

It is very gratifying to find that Boards of Guardians are recognising the necessity of introducing highly trained Matrons into the Infirmarys, as it is only thus that proficiency throughout the wards can be obtained.

THE building for the accommodation of the Nurse-probationers at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, is growing apace. In this building each probationer, of whom there are about forty in various stages of their three years' training, will have a separate room, where she can, to some extent, make a little "home" of her own, surrounded by the little household gods and knick-knacks which serve so much to make the Nurse forget she is in an "Institution."

A CURIOUS complication has arisen between the Leigh District Nursing Association and Dr. Jones, the Medical Officer of Health. The Association asked, through the Board of Guardians, for Dr. Jones to furnish them with the names of the sick poor needing the Nurses' help. This Dr. Jones refused to furnish, on the ground of medical confidence. When the matter came before the Board, the Chairman said there was a case on record where a public body had rendered itself liable for damages for defamation of character by the Medical Officer furnishing information regarding the disease a patient was suffering from. It was finally decided by the

Board that their medical officers should be written to, asking them, without disclosing the nature of the illness, just to put a red cross against the name of any patient whose case would be benefited by trained Nursing.

A GUARDIAN writes:—"THE NURSING RECORD has been giving us some very interesting information of late as to the trivial and erratic ways of the various Boards throughout the country, and I think the lessons they are learning from your progressive paper will be productive of much good; but, you know, we are not *always* in the wrong. We have often some very difficult, raw, and bad material to deal with in our Nurses; as, for instance, a new Nurse, recently engaged from Manchester, arrived with her boxes the previous evening about 7.30, and went away, saying she would return at 9 o'clock. At 9.15 she came back in a dazed condition, and directly the porter had carried her things up to her room, she fell down on the bed unconscious. On the doctor being sent for, he at once pronounced her hopelessly intoxicated. That morning she wanted to set about her duties, but was told she must first go before the Board, at 5 o'clock. Having probably a very natural presentiment of what was coming, or another attack of her old complaint, she did not make her appearance up to 6 p.m., and her appointment was duly cancelled.

We found her out in time, otherwise we might have had some scandal or tragic occurrence for which we should have appeared responsible, but which, in reality, would have been quite beyond our control."

We are very glad to insert the above letter, and to assure our correspondent that we quite sympathise with the difficulties in the path of Boards of Guardians. We have never contended that there are not faults on both sides. What we always aim at doing is to raise a high standard on the part of the Nurses, so as to minimise the difficulties arising from their deficiencies, and, on the other hand, to educate public feeling on the question of what it owes to the sick and to those Nurses who strive to perform their duties to the best of their ability.

IT is interesting to read that some of the Irish Boards of Guardians are thirsting for a visit from the Commissioner of the *British Medical Journal*. At a meeting of the Bandon Guardians, the

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