

It will be remembered that these men were accused of taking money from Nurses upon the pretence of starting a Massage Company, of which these unfortunate women were to act as Lady Superintendents, and receive a high salary and a percentage; but the suggestions made were so eminently unsatisfactory, that while sympathising with the poor ladies who have lost their money, we can but regret that so many should have been found willing to enter upon so undesirable a business. We hope this case may be a warning to Nurses not to risk their earnings in speculative undertakings without the advice of some good man of business.

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An animated discussion recently took place at a meeting of the Prescot Guardians, when the action of one of the Nurses in placing a crucifix in one of the Hospital wards came up for discussion. It appears that the Nurse in question had been instructed by a Guardian to remove the crucifix, on the ground that it was an emblem of a particular religious body, and, as such, had no right in the wards of a public Institution. The Nurse did not comply with the request that the crucifix should be taken down, and seems to have been insubordinate and somewhat impertinent to the Chairman of the Board when he remonstrated with her on her conduct. The Board very properly instructed her to apologise, or to resign. In addition to putting up the crucifix, the Nurse had been proselytising among the patients.

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Most sensible persons would agree that the Nurse would have given a far better evidence of her religious fervour by her devotion to duty, and her respect for authority, rather than by a display of a religious symbol on the wall of her ward. Several of the Roman Catholic members of the Board strongly deprecated her attempt to introduce sectarian troubles into the Infirmary.

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At the Castletownbere Union the perennial question of Nuns being appointed instead of Trained Nurses came before the Board, when:

The Rev. J. O'Callaghan said that his object in coming before the Board was to intimate to them that the Sisters of Mercy, Castletownbere, were prepared to undertake the Nursing in the Workhouse Infirmary. The Nuns would come there at a very small salary; two of them would act as Nurses, besides the assistance of two others, whose services would be given gratis. Altogether four of them would be constantly attending. They were satisfied to live altogether in the house.

The Chairman fully agreed with Father O'Callaghan's remarks, and stated that he had been speaking to the Nuns on that important matter. The Nuns

informed him that they were not asking the position through any personal benefit to themselves. He carefully explained the great amount of good the poor would derive if they (the Nuns) would be appointed, although at first their introduction would be a little costly, but after a while would effect a saving.

Mr. J. Sheehan opposed the appointment of the Nuns, as he believed that a Day Nurse would very well do the business, and could not understand paying a large salary to the Nuns, besides fitting up apartments for them. That matter, he thought, would be a heavy tax on the ratepayers, who were already overtaxed, and some of them far worse off than the inmates. He believed that a trained Nurse would be got at a salary of £15 a year with rations.

The Chairman could not agree with Mr. Sheehan's statement, and could not understand that a trained Nurse would come here under £25 a year, with first-class rations, and the difference in the salaries paid to the Nuns and that of a trained Nurse, taking in all, would be very small.

It was then proposed by Mr. J. Cronin, seconded by Mr. M. Power, that two of the Sisters of Mercy be invited to take up the Nursing of the Infirmary.

Mr. J. Sheehan proposed as an amendment that a trained Nurse be advertised for, at a salary of £15 a year with rations.

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Mr. Sheehan's amendment, unfortunately, was not carried, and the Nuns, without any guarantee having been given to the Board as to their efficiency in Nursing, were appointed. It is easy to understand a reluctance on the part of Guardians to remove from their office Sisters of Mercy who may have held their positions in Infirmaries for many years. But it is quite inexcusable at this time when so much proof has been adduced as to the abuses existing in Infirmaries and Hospitals in Ireland owing to the untrained Nursing by Nuns, to actually appoint non-Nursing Sisters to positions of responsibility. It is of no use for Irish Guardians to oppose the march of progress in the Nursing world. It must come, and their efforts will only postpone—not seriously retard—the right that the poor sick in Infirmaries have to skilled assistance.

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We received a courteous invitation to be present at the graduating exercises of the class of Nurses for 1895, at the General Hospital, Toronto, when twenty-one trained Nurses received their diplomas, and we attended the delightful function in the spirit, and much enjoyed the graceful scene and inspiring oration, which was duly delivered upon this memorable occasion.

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