

AT a discussion before the Holborn Guardians on the vexed question of "beer-money" for the Nurses, Mr. Howes said he remembered "a time when the Nurses went out with a jug and got their beer, and, when out had one or two glasses, and brought one or two back with them. He did not say that the Nurses would do it now; but it would be better to add a few pounds to the Nurses' salaries if they did not like to have the Guardians' beer."

It is surely time for Boards of Guardians to abolish the system of offering "beer-money" to their nursing staffs. If it is right and advisable, and if the Nurses can do their work better on beer, they ought not to have to pay for it. "Beer-money," as a custom of the kitchen, has become almost obsolete, and it is quite time this derogatory item were added to the legitimate salary of the Infirmary Nurse.

THE Master of the Chelsea Workhouse must be rather an extraordinary individual. It appears that the Board had to appoint a night Nurse for the Workhouse, for which two candidates were sent up by the Committee. To one of these an objection was raised by the Master. It appeared that she had been engaged to a medical officer, who unfortunately had died. The Master, thinking that "such expectations in life might to some extent unfit her for the somewhat humble position of night Nurse of the Workhouse," had recommended the Committee to appoint the other candidate. The Board, however, showed its good sense by selecting her by a large majority.

The Master needs to be taught that it is not for him to gauge a Nurse's "expectations in life." It is a new idea to attempt to "boycott" a woman who works for her living, because she has once been exalted to the height of being the *fiancée* of a medical officer!

AT the Westminster Police Court on Monday, a man, who said that he was fifty-two years of age, most of it passed abroad and on sea, complained to Mr. de Rutzen of his treatment in Ward No. 3 of the Chelsea Infirmary, where he had gone as a destitute, sick person, and a native of the parish, for rest and treatment. He complained of being overworked in the Institution from a quarter to five in the morning to eight o'clock at night. Applicant produced a diary of his occupations in the ward, which included "washing three old men" daily, and assisting to bath a number of other invalids. He said that he had a heavy cold on him now, and he did not consider his labour on half-starvation rations at all conducive to recovery. Mr. de

Rutzen asked what he expected from the Court? Applicant: I want some advice. I went into the Infirmary for medical treatment and rest—not to work like a galley slave from morning till night. On being informed that the Court could not assist him, applicant gathered up his papers and a bundle with the remark that with thirty years in the River Plate and elsewhere, he had never had such "a doing" as he had in Chelsea Infirmary.

It would be advisable for the ratepayers of Chelsea to promptly elect some women to sit on the Board of Guardians. It has been found in nearly every instance that the advent of women's influence is a potent factor in effecting reforms in Infirmarys. No doubt this appearance in the Police Court will prompt the Guardians to inquire into the truth of the statement that pauper inmates are allowed to "wash old men and bath a number of other invalids."

THE meetings of Boards of Guardians used to be regarded as somewhat dull functions, performed in the public interest and attended in a true spirit of self-abnegation. But, on the Nursing question especially, there are often little rifts in the lute, and attempts at repartee and facetiousness, which no doubt amuse the perpetrators. At a meeting at Stockport lately a woman Guardian complained that there were constant resignations on the part of the nursing staff, and suggested that some inquiry on the subject should be made. She proposed a resolution to the effect that a sub-committee be appointed to be called the Hospital Sub-Committee, to hear all complaints or reports and to report to the Board. In view of the constant changes it was time the matter was taken up and something done to stop it.—Mr. Wilson: Why not call it the "Tittle-tattling Committee." (Laughter.) And so an effort at reform, which seems to be just enough, was laughed "out of Court."

THE Nurses and patients of the Devon and Exeter Hospital are delighted at the decision of the managers to introduce electric lighting into the wards.

THE Sheffield parochial authorities take an enterprising interest in the necessitous of their district. A new maternity ward is to be added to the Ecclesall Workhouse, and some 50 patients will be accommodated.

DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.
 DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.
 DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.
 DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.
 DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.
 From the sweet-scented Island of Ceylon.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)