

now quite civil. Of course I have had many difficulties, the greatest getting the patients to see that I am really their friend. Just fancy, they think I am unkind if I suggest that one ought not to go up and down stone stairs without shoes—that they should not dance in the kitchen while the dinners are being served—that they should not visit the lying-in ward without my knowledge—and that they should not give their own orders to the messenger, &c. They say, 'We always have done as we liked.' But of course the things I have reported to the Board could not be tolerated by any decent Nurse, and, in fact, are not allowed by the Local Government Board. Before taking up country work, I studied at one of the largest Workhouse Infirmaries, on purpose to acquire knowledge of Poor Law administration, and as I say, after nearly ten years' experience, I am asked to resign through doing my duty. I do not wish to say too much in public, as I feel sure the President of the Local Government Board will allow me a full and free enquiry, for, after having held the position of Nurse nearly ten years, I can hardly have become so outrageously bad in the short time I have been here. In fact, when they understand what I have done here, I feel sure I shall be complimented, as I have been frequently by the Poor Law Inspector.

I hope you will not find this letter too long for publication, and thanking you for your courtesy,

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

ELLEN BUMSTEAD,

Qualified Member London Obstetric Society.

It is terribly uphill work to effect Institution reform, but still more difficult in the rough element of a Workhouse Infirmary, where licence is regarded as freedom, and dirt and disorder as an Englishman's birthright. As Miss Bumstead truly remarks, it is difficult to persuade the average pauper that the person who exacts cleanliness, civility and order is "really his friend."

At the weekly meeting of the Cardiff Guardians held at the Workhouse on Saturday week, the report of the Workhouse Visiting Committee was adopted. This report included a tentative scheme for training Nurses at the Workhouse Infirmary. This scheme proposed that candidates must be between 22 and 30, who should make application to the Head Nurse at the Workhouse Infirmary, where a register will be kept. The period of training is laid down at three years, but at the end of two years candidates will be required to pass an examination in subjects which have been taught. Probationers, who will be under the authority of the Master and Matron, will be provided with board, washing, and uniform, and will receive a salary of £10 for the first year, £12 for the second, and £18 for the third year.

We are glad to observe these reforms in Nursing matters in connection with the Cardiff Workhouse Infirmary, but to place Probationers

under the authority of an untrained Master and Matron will bring inevitable friction in the future. The Probationers should be under the authority of a qualified medical officer and trained Superintendent Nurse. The Guardians of the Fareham Workhouse have lately been dealing with difficulties in the nursing department which have arisen from the same inevitable cause of disorganisation, and it is to be regretted that they cannot appreciate the fact that, however desirous persons taken from the class from which the majority of Masters and Matrons of Workhouses are selected, are, to perform the duties of superintending the nursing department of a Poor Law Infirmary, their professional ignorance disqualifies the most conscientious for the task. The sooner this truth is recognised the better for the sick poor and Nursing under the Local Government Board.

THE most popular floral decoration in our Hospital wards at the present time is a mixture of cornflowers and marguerites. To our mind the two flowers look much prettier when arranged in separate glasses than when combined. Daisies and grasses together and the cornflowers alone in great masses look charming.

A "DOCTOR'S" table in a ward where the flowers are generally most artistically arranged excited our admiration one day last week. A strip of pink gingham edged with coarse washing lace in cream colour was laid down the centre of the table, the flower vases of which were beautifully decorated with large, scented pink peonies.

DR. E. P. DAVIS has been conducting a series of clinics for Nurses at the Jefferison Maternity, in Philadelphia, which have been attended by more than 100 nurses. The subject of the last lecture was "The Care of the Mother and Her Infant," with special reference to the care of infants during the summer. Dr. Davis's lecture, which was of an exceedingly practical character, was illustrated by the head Nurse of the Maternity, who applied the dressings as employed under antiseptic methods. The care of the infant was illustrated by the washing and dressing of the baby, with special reference to those methods of treatment suitable for hot weather. The care of the baby's milk during the summer was described by the representative of a milk laboratory, and a convenient set of bottles and apparatus for heating milk were shown. The methods of milking, of cooling and keeping the milk were also described. Such a demonstration would be most useful to our English Nurses.

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