

receive and attend to the female vagrants, they must reluctantly withdraw their three Nurses, as the Committee could not support a system entirely against the principles and acknowledged opinions of persons capable of judging both from a medical and administrative point of view.

The Whiteparish Parish Council have held a meeting, which they ought to have held weeks ago, to settle the dissension which has arisen concerning the district Nurse. The lady is of French nationality, and the chairman expressed surprise that a Nurse with so little knowledge of English should have been selected by two of their members. It would seem that there was prejudice roused against her on the ground of her being a Roman Catholic, and any such prejudice is to be much deprecated; but the Nurse, by her own showing, worked under a misapprehension of the respective duties of doctor and Nurse. She admitted that she had strongly differed with the medical man as to his treatment of several cases which she instanced, and said when she disobeyed his orders, it was for the good of the patients. *The rules under which she worked provided that she could do this.*

Now if the rules referred to are as Nurse Austen states, she must, as a Nurse, know they are utterly unworkable, and must inevitably lead to friction and trouble if they are acted upon. We trust these rules may be more clearly explained to her, or at once altered so as to prevent further disorganisation, for on the petition of some 130 of the inhabitants her services are retained for the parish, where she appears to be popular.

THE Bearminster Board of Guardians advertised for a Nurse, offering a salary of £20 a year, and received one application. It was proposed by a Guardian that a further advertisement be put in the papers, and that the salary be £25 a year. They could not, he said, get an efficient Nurse for £20 a year. After some discussion it was decided that the clerk should send for the Nurse's original testimonials, and if they corresponded with the copies before them, she was to be appointed on a month's trial. This is certainly a rather hap-hazard way of choosing a Nurse, to place in charge of Infirmary patients. The Nurse selected has, we do not question, all the personal qualities required, and much more than one could expect for £20 a year, but there should be a rule that a personal interview should be absolutely necessary, before a Nurse is appointed to a public office. Even with a personal

interview, it is not always possible to select a Nurse who answers the requirements.

MATRONS of Cottage Hospitals frequently complain that they are expected to do a little bit of everything, and qualify as Jacks of all trades before they are considered eligible for the superintendence of Cottage Hospitals. But it would appear as if they are not the only officials from whom a good deal is expected when one calls to mind the advertisement which appeared not so long ago wherein the committee of a small Hospital in the country advertised for a "Porter and gardener: one who can dispense medicines preferred."

Unfortunately, it is difficult to hear the end of such stories. It would be so interesting to know if an individual could be found competent to grow gilly-flowers and cabbages, who, when he was tired of being a son of the soil, could transform himself into a chemist capable of preparing mist. ferri co. and compound tincture of camphor. Perhaps this rural committee had a vague suspicion that horticulture was closely allied to the science and art of herbalism, and that, therefore, a gardener might be presumed to have a knowledge of "green stuffs" as applicable in medicine.

HOSPITAL patients are frequently overheard exchanging confidences as to the advantages and disadvantages of Hospitals and Poor Law Infirmarys. Two women recently were discussing the question, and found it somewhat difficult to decide on the merits of the case. They both agreed that life in the "workus" was "more free and friendly like"; but they said it "was so dull without the young gentlemen coming in and out." So that the liveliness and cheerful society of medical students is another inducement to the sick poor to enter a Hospital rather than a Workhouse Infirmary. Medical students in the days of Thackeray and Dickens were even more "lively" than they are to-day.

SPEAKING of the Cookery Classes, arranged under the County Councils, a district Nurse, who attended a course of these lectures, was complaining of the waste of opportunity on the part of the teacher in not showing the poor people how to best prepare foods they were in the habit of using, and with such materials as they had at their disposal. "They should," said the Nurse, "be taught to cook rice and vegetables, to make soup and cheap puddings, and be shown how to cook in a saucepan with a hole in it. That's the sort of thing the poor people have to tackle."

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