

Nursing matters. The Medical Officer reported that a change was necessary, and that some permanent provision should be made for night nursing. A lady Guardian considered they ought to have a night Nurse, and "also that our present Nurse, or any other, be as little septic as possible, and that she should wear proper nursing dress when on duty, which is cotton, instead of woollen fabric, both for dresses and head-gear," and she moved a resolution to that effect, but it was negatived by an amendment by a male Guardian "that things remain as they are."

THE Mile End Guardians seem to have their own views as to who trains the Nurses in their Infirmary—they think the medical man who lectures to the Probationers "trains" them in nursing. We are glad they recognise the need for theoretical teaching, and that they are anxious to give the doctor an honorarium for the extra work entailed on him by lecturing to the nursing staff. But we venture to assert that in their Hospital, as in all others, it is the Matron and the Sisters who have the responsible task of training the Nurses. It would, indeed, be well if Hospital authorities realised that the strain of continually training the numerous raw recruits who pass through their hands is very great, and calls for added remuneration, especially in the salaries paid to the Sisters. This has never been acknowledged, and, as a matter of fact, the salaries that Sisters in Hospital receive at the present day show no increase on what was paid to the less highly-accomplished Sister some twenty years ago, when the training of Nurses, as now understood, was not dreamt of.

WE regret that, owing to lack of space, we are unable to deal at length with an extraordinary letter received by the Lambeth Infirmary Board from Dr. G. A. B. Thompson, of Abridge, Essex, concerning the Nursing department, of which his daughter was lately a member. It is a most inconsequential document, and referring to his previous letter, which appeared in our issue of the 8th inst., he writes:—"I did not point out that she (his daughter) had been imperiously directed to stand up if the majesty of the Matron—one Miss Griffiths—appeared in the ward." Herein seems to be the germ of the whole matter. Miss Thompson resented the enforcement of the discipline necessary for the good government of a large public Institution. The Nurses in a well-disciplined training school do not rise when "one Miss Griffiths" passes through the ward, they rise out of respect to their superior officer, as Dr. Thompson graphically describes it, "the majesty of the Matron."

At the same meeting, the consideration of the letter from the Nursing staff respecting the charges of Dr. Thompson was ordered to stand over.

We shall be interested to know what course is ultimately adopted concerning this important communication from the Nurses to the Infirmary Board.

At a late meeting of the Stroud Board of Guardians, the rules for the Workhouse Nurses were under discussion, and we congratulate the Board on possessing such men as Major Fisher and Councillor Curtis amongst their number. The question arose as to the relative powers of the Master and Matron. Major Fisher said they all knew that in some matters women did not like to be under the direction of men. Workhouse Nurses were no different to others in that respect, and he did not think they would work comfortably under one or two of the clauses as proposed to be altered in the second part of Mr. Clissold's resolution. He should support in every way the Master in keeping order in the House, and so on; but he felt that in all womanly matters, and in all such questions of detail as occurred in connection with woman's work amongst women, the Nurses should look to the Matron. He strongly advised the Board to leave the Nurses, as much as possible, under the control of the Matron.

Councillor Curtis held a similar view to that expressed by Major Fisher. In this case, the Matron was the wife of the Master, and he should not think, therefore, there was any jealousy between them respecting the authority of either. If they accepted the Major's advice, they would be approaching the Master through the Matron, and in the case of the Nurses, he believed that was by far the best thing to do.

If a few more Guardians possessed the common sense of these gentlemen, we should have fewer scandals in connection with Poor-Law administration.

MR. C. B. LOCKWOOD gives the following interesting information concerning disinfection in his article entitled "Further Report on Aseptic and Septic Surgical Cases, with official reference to the Disinfection of Materials and the Skin," which lately appeared in the *British Medical Journal*.

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