

salary is only £16 a year, with rations. Her assistants are five pauper women—one 65 years of age, and the others having illegitimate children, three of which are young children, and live with their mothers in the Hospital. These women have to scrub ten wards, make the beds, empty buckets, slops, &c., wash the patients, carry up their food, and in addition, do all the laundry work of the Infirmary. On the male side there is a pauper wardman, aged 74, whose hearing is defective, and who was a day labourer before he came into the house. He is assisted as occasion may demand, by one or two old and infirm men, who sit up at night with bad cases. One such old man was looking after a case of cancer at the time of the Inspector's visit. He is a shoemaker by trade. Another old man, who occasionally acts as night Nurse, would appear to have no other qualification than that he is feeble and has a paralysed arm. The Nurse is on duty all day, and goes around and locks up at 10 p.m., and does not again visit them until 7 a.m., unless summoned. Meanwhile the patients suffering from such diseases as bronchitis, gangrene, cancer, &c., must struggle on as best they may without attendance until the morning, except where some old man is told off to sit up with some particularly bad case. The poor old people who are directed to see to the patients are almost in need of Nursing themselves. The inspector further commented on the want of proper cooking arrangements, there being only an open grate 26 inches in length, in which turf is used. With these arrangements, it was impossible to provide adequately for the cooking and washing requirements, and the punctuality of the meals of the sick, and it is not practicable at any time to heat sufficient water to make warm baths for thirty or forty patients on an open grate. Such are the provisions made for the care and treatment of the sick in one of the most important unions in the centre of Ireland, and it appeared to the Local Government Board that some measures should be taken to bring the Hospital up to even the minimum standard of modern requirements. The Local Government Board considered the appointment of a trained Night Nurse indispensable, that a proper range with circulating boiler should be provided, and coal used instead of turf, and they would require that the sick poor should not be nursed by women of unsuitable character.

In this instance the Mountmellick Guardians have done well in summoning a special meeting with the object of adopting measures to correct the deficiencies pointed out. But we should like to see recommendations from the Local Government Board sent to the thirty-four Infirmaries where the Nursing of the sick poor is entirely in the hands of untrained pauper Nurses.

"Coming Events."

WE have received the following from a senior member of the Royal British Nurses' Association:

A NEW VERSION OF AN OLD SONG.

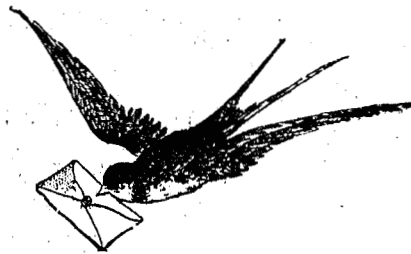
We don't want to fight,

But though we may be few,

We know our minds, we're in the right, we know our Bye-laws, too;

We've had to fight before, and while we're members true

No one shall gag our Corporation.



Our Foreign Letter.

THE SYDNEY HOSPITAL.

THE Sydney Hospital, as it now stands, is a comparatively new building, and is a credit to the enterprising Colony which determined that it should have a Hospital worthy of it.

The old Hospital was a miserably built wooden structure, which was liable at any moment to be entirely destroyed by fire. The Nurses were inadequately housed, and 150 patients were about as uncomfortable as they well could be. Sir George Dibbs, when he was Premier, was mainly instrumental in getting Parliament to vote the money which brought the present building to its state of finish and perfection.

Two hundred and fifty patients are accommodated most comfortably in this Hospital, which stands in grounds covering about three acres. There is room to add on two new wards for the admission of 50 more beds. At present there are eight charming wards, all with large, cool, and airy verandahs. The ventilation is admirable, and the extra expense in using stone rather than bricks, in the construction of the Hospital, is amply compensated for in the exceptional coolness of the building. In winter the wards are steam-heated. The Matron, Miss Gould, who is an Englishwoman, has done splendid work in establishing trained and skilled Nursing of the sick. Miss Gould—who is very highly educated—was trained at the Prince Alfred Hospital, holding later the position of Sister there. She then took charge of a private Hospital in Woolloomooloo, whence she went, in 1891, as Matron of the Sydney Hospital. Her staff consists of 62 Nurses, and her life is a busy and a hard one. She holds classes for the Probationers and Nurses three times weekly, and gives them thoroughly practical "grinds." The Nurses trained at this Hospital are so well recognised for efficiency that they carry off a large percentage of the higher posts and Matronships, as these become vacant. The Nightingale

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