

Midwife," recently read at the London Nursing Conference—that midwifery should be included in the curriculum of the thoroughly-trained Nurse; and this we are glad to see is approved of by Dr. Dolan.

THE following happy suggestion is made in last week's *Truth*:

"Apropos of the celebration of the Queen's sixty years' reign, it has been suggested to me that the occasion could not be better marked than by the raising of an additional fund to supplement the £70,000 devoted at the Queen's desire in the Jubilee year to founding an Institute for Nurses. Heaven forbid that I should in any way encourage a renewal in *Truth* of the idiotic correspondence on this subject which has been running in the *Daily Telegraph*, but this particular suggestion certainly seems deserving of consideration. In deciding what form the celebration is to take, the Queen's personal wishes ought certainly to have great weight, and, by disposing of this fund in the way she did in 1887, the Queen gave the plainest possible indication of the kind of celebration which she herself prefers. The present endowment of the Jubilee Institute for Nurses only brings in about £2,100 a year, and there is urgent need of a larger income."

We refrained last week from making any comments on the unhappy discussions that have arisen between the Matron and the Medical Officer at the City of London Infirmary. The facts speak for themselves, and add further weight to the opinion we have before expressed that friction and dissension of every kind must inevitably arise between the two officers under the regulations now in force in the Poor Law Infirmary. An absolutely perfect man as Medical Officer and an absolutely perfect woman as Matron might, with mutual forbearance, succeed in working together smoothly under such difficulties, but with the average man and woman in these cases they become stumbling-blocks in the way of the due performance of their respective duties.

It is not our wish to exonerate one of these officers to the reproach of the other; the *casus belli* is to be found in the untenable position allotted to the Matron of a Poor Law Infirmary. In this instance, Dr. Buncombe gave evidence that Miss Warburton had never in any way interfered with the Medical Officer's treatment of the patients. But, on the other hand, the Medical Officer interpreted his authority in such a manner that he took upon himself to alter the nursing arrangements made by the Matron, to lay down for the Probationers a series of duties

different from those planned by the Matron, to forbid the Nurses to have leave of absence without his written permission, to examine the condition of the cupboards, to reprimand the Nurses in the open wards, and to scold the cook as occasion arose.

It would be impossible for the medical man and the Matron of any Institution not to come into continual collision under a rule which makes for muddle and mismanagement, such as ensued. And we trust that the repeated evidences of the need of re-organisation in their respective departments will be recognised by the Local Government Board, and will promptly lead to new regulations being framed for the guidance of the Matron and the Medical Officer of the Poor Law Infirmary, which will tend to peace and harmony in place of the conflict and confusion that is now always imminent.

THE Beaminster Board of Guardians have not yet overcome the difficulties attending the appointment of a Nurse at a salary of £20 a year. The first applicant chosen could only produce testimonials that she had herself written, the second one selected declined to come because no uniform was allowed with the small salary offered. One of the Guardians mentioned that a trained Nurse could be obtained from the National Nursing Association at a salary of £20 per annum, and uniform. The Board would, however, have to become subscribers to the Association to the extent of £1 a year. There were other conditions, one of which was that they should stay in their first situation for two years. There was a point to which these Nurses would not agree, and that was the charge of vagrants. Another Guardian observed that it would be better to advertise than to be under the thumb of an Association. Nurses who came from such an Institution, if they had any complaints, would write behind their backs, and, in consequence, would be withdrawn. Finally it was agreed by the Board to offer to provide the last selected Nurse with a uniform, or a sum of money in lieu thereof.

WE have to acknowledge with gratitude a cheque for £2 2s. from Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Denison, as an annual subscription to the Sir Julian Goldsmid's Home of Rest for Nurses at Brighton.

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