

favour of the appointment of a qualified Night Nurse, said in his opinion "it was simple cruelty" to leave sick and helpless persons at night without attention and skilled care.

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"ELDERLY NURSE" writes: "I see several letters from Nurses in the RECORD, on the subject of night nursing, and while I agree that too long night duty is depressing to health and spirits, I must say I think there is too great a spirit of 'finickiness' among the Nurses of to-day. They are always saying 'I like this' and 'I don't like that,' and they seem to think their pronouncements final, and that there is nothing more to be said. I should like to remind some of the younger generations of Nurses that fine fibre and real grit are not built up out of feather-bed lives. There is too much of the spirit of luxury abroad, and it is quickly attacking our Nurses. The English people are what they are after the exercise for centuries of good, splendid discipline, self-control and self-sacrifice. And so soon as we lose these three fine qualities, decay sets in. And I fear the germ of decay has begun to get into the ranks of our Nurses, who are in danger of becoming too pleasure-loving and too keen on out-door sports and amusements generally. I know often on night duty I have been *very* tired, but I have often been a better woman when, being tired, I have risen superior to myself and worked and watched through the long hours to relieve those who were much worse off, and more weary than I. It is not always when we are most *comfortable* that we are strengthening the highest and best in us."

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THE horrible disease known as beri-beri, which is a purely Oriental disease, has again broken out at the Richmond (Dublin) Lunatic Asylum, and is on the increase. At this same Asylum there was an epidemic of the same kind some two years since. Dr. Connolly-Norman, the Medical Superintendent, reports that the Asylum is still dreadfully overcrowded, the number of lunatics being 620 above the limits of legitimate accommodation. The present outbreak is attributed to improperly cooked food, rice diet, and overcrowding. With such a state of things prevailing it is imperative that measures should be taken to relieve this dangerous crowding together.

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THE Guardians of the Roscommon Workhouse have taken a very new departure in the following resolution brought forward by Mr. Wm. Tully, J.P.: "That representation be made to the Treasury with a view to getting the salaries of trained Nurses in workhouses included in the Government grant annually voted towards the medical expenses in Poor Law Unions."

This is a totally new view of the case, and the idea thus mooted has been formulated into the subjoined Memorial:—

"That we look upon the appointment of trained Nurses for Workhouse Hospitals as an increase to the medical staff, for the part-payment of which the Government give an annual grant, and that as these appointments were made, in most instances, upon imperative orders issued by the Local Government Board, we consider it is only common justice to the ratepayers that the salaries of these officials be paid from an Imperial source. That copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Lord Lieutenant and the Chief Secretary, and that they be requested to use their influence with the Lords of the Treasury to have the salaries paid to trained Nurses in Workhouse Hospitals in Ireland defrayed out of the Government grant, at present confined to the payment of medical and educational expenses incurred in the management of Irish Workhouses. That copies of this Resolution be also forwarded to every Board of Guardians in Ireland, with a request that they will consider it, and intimate to this Board their opinions on the subject."

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This Memorial was brought before the Guardians and was duly seconded and warmly supported.

Mr. John Neilan asked if the salaries of the medical officers were paid in full by the Treasury.

Mr. Tully said only a portion, and also a portion of the medical expenses.

The Chairman said they might as well ask the Government for as much as they can, and take all they would get.

* * *

We think the movement to thus relieve the local ratepayers from their legitimate provision for their sick will not meet with the hearty support from the Government which these enterprising gentlemen from Roscommon expect. But it will be interesting to read the Government's answer to such a proposal—not that Government ever frames particularly interesting or amusing communications in answer to some of the extraordinary propositions laid before them.

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Maintenance of the Nurses in the Roscommon Workhouse should not prove a very weighty burden to the Imperial Treasury, if their dietary be continued on the lines at present reported:—

At a recent meeting the Night Nurse wrote complaining of the rations which were given her, and stating she was dreadfully disappointed that the Guardians would not describe the rations in their advertisement. She was not provided with either

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