

A PETITION is to be presented from many influential Boards of Guardians to the Local Government Board asking for legislation enabling Nurses, laundrywomen, and scrubbers in Workhouse Infirmaries, to claim exemption from contributions under the Superannuation Act—of course with exclusion from the benefits of the Act. The Act was passed hurriedly and without due consideration as to the way in which Nurses' interests were affected, but the inertia of the ordinary Nurse concerning her professional affairs is the true reason that her concerns are arranged without her opinion being consulted.

AN ordinary household removal is dreaded by all comfort lovers. And it certainly is usually a time of absolute dreariness and weariness to the flesh. But the authorities of the New Royal Infirmary at Halifax have given us an admirable object-lesson by the feat recently accomplished by them. In one day all the patients—50 in number—all the furniture, fittings, and luggage, with the Nursing and household staff and their belongings, were removed from the old to the new building with the least possible friction and no discomfort. The utmost credit attaches to all the officials, by whose unselfishness and energy alone the task was accomplished.

AN astonishing statement was made by one of the Portsea Guardians at a recent meeting where a recommendation for two additional trained Nurses for the Hospital was brought forward and discussed. Mr. French supported the suggestion, and referred to "the great need for more assistance in the 'lock' wards, where all cancer cases were treated." If it be true that all cases of cancer are treated in the lock wards this is the worst Infirmary abuse which has come before our notice. The odium attaching to being a patient in a "lock" ward, is a very cruel condition to entail on cancer cases. Added to which there would always be the danger to the latter of the contraction of another disease even more dreadful than the one they were already suffering from. Some explanation of such a condition of things should certainly be speedily forthcoming.

THAT was a very extraordinary suicide of the trained Nurse, Miss Alice Hayles, at Ryde, who drowned herself in the sea from over-anxiety over her first private patient, whom she imagined not to be progressing as she should. To the conscientious Nurse her first case must always be a mental strain, but it is very curious that the friends and medical attendant of this patient did not notice the excited condition of the Nurse, which led to so distressing an event.

A CHARMING presentation was made at the Annual Meeting to Sister Josephine, who has been for the past 19 years Superintendent of the Doncaster Infirmary and Dispensary, and who is now retiring after her labours. She received an illuminated address of thanks and appreciation and a cheque for £90, which had been collected as a tribute of affection, and to mark the high esteem in which she is held. Miss Dean, of the Mildmay Institute also, on the same occasion, presented a gold watch and chain, with the inscription: "Presented to Sister Josephine Gelston by the Directress, Mrs. C. Hogg, Miss Dean, Mrs. A. Pennefather, Miss Cooke, Miss Whyte, and Sisters and Nurses of the Mildmay Nursing Home upon her retirement after 24 years of loyal connection with Mildmay, with earnest affectionate wishes for her future happiness. October, 1896."

Sister Josephine is an Irishwoman, and is returning to her own country with the good wishes of all who have known her. Sister Florence Longrigg, also of the Mildmay Institute, has been appointed to fill the post held by Sister Josephine.

As a set-off to the extravagant praise which some newspapers lavish on the trained Nurse, one of them gives us a wholesome tonic by saying: "Ideally she should be a ministering angel, actually she is sometimes, unfortunately, very much the reverse, for, should she give herself airs, there is no one who can render her presence in a house more tiresome and irksome than a Hospital Nurse."

A POPULAR Health journal, speaking of "How to avoid sick headache" says: "It is, as a matter of routine domestic treatment, a good plan to wash out the stomach in the beginning of the attack, even when it has not been anticipated." It is a new idea to regard stomach lavage as "a matter of routine domestic treatment" for so simple a matter as sick headache. If such heroic treatment be adopted for headache, what would be employed for a more serious trouble?

Another suggestion is made for the same trouble: "Persons who suffer habitually from 'sick headaches' can nearly always predict the advent of an attack; and if they can, an emetic of hot water, followed by a laxative dose of salts or magnesia, might save the pain they otherwise may suffer."

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 Deliciously Luscious and Fragrant.

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