

am not aware of any case in which I have failed to carry out the orders of the Guardians, except on two occasions, viz. :— Once when the Guardians sought to restrict my private correspondence, a matter in which I consider they had no concern; and once when they directed me to sign a paper acknowledging that in the administration of the Infirmary I was subservient to the Steward. On this point, I understand that, under the system of the Local Government Board for the administration of Infirmarys, amongst the officers the Matron is subordinate only to the Medical Superintendent, and has precedence over, or, at the lowest, co-ordinate rank with the Steward.

(4) It has been my constant effort to work in co-operation with the Visiting Committee, and to assist them to the utmost of my power in their supervision of the Infirmary. I am not conscious of having failed in this duty. But there have been some things connected with individual members of the Visiting Committee which appeared to me to be in no sense supervision, and to which I have thought it my duty to object.

For instance, it has appeared to me undesirable and not conducive to efficiency or discipline, that individual members of the Committee should take tea in a Nurse's duty room, and keep her from her patients; or that members of the Committee should be smoking in the Nurse's sitting-room at midnight! or that young Nurses and Probationers should go to Smoking Concerts (even though Guardians and Officers of the Infirmary were present) and remain out until after midnight; or that Nurses should have a general pass to remain out until 11.30 p.m. To these matters I have felt it my duty to object.

The Guardians, in their resolution, have not given any details of their complaints against me, but I am fully prepared to answer any detailed or particular charges, should the Local Government Board think it well to call for them.

I need only add that it is, and has always been, my anxious desire to carry out my duties thoroughly, conscientiously, and efficiently, and in entire harmony with the Guardians of the Union and with all the Officers of the Infirmary.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

MARION M. EVANS,  
Matron.

The Secretary to the Local Government Board.

Local Government Board,  
Whitehall, S. W.,

June 30th, 1896.

MADAM,—I am directed by the Local Government Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, and to transmit, for your information, the enclosed copy of a letter, which the Board have this day addressed to the Guardians of the S. Olave's Union with reference to the charges brought by them against you as Matron of the Infirmary.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) W. E. KNOLLYS,  
Assistant Secretary.

Miss M. M. Evans.

Local Government Board,  
Whitehall, S. W.,

June 30th, 1896.

SIR,—I am directed by the Local Government Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, forwarding a copy of a letter addressed to the Guardians of the S. Olave's Union by Miss Evans, resigning the office of Matron of the Infirmary.

As Miss Evans has resigned, the Board do not propose to deal in this letter at any length with the charges brought against her, but they cannot allow the matter to end without stating that they in no way agree with the course adopted by the Guardians.

The Board have carefully considered your letter of the 27th ultimo, and the printed extracts from the Minutes which

accompanied it, but they do not find adequate foundation for the charges brought against Miss Evans. It appears to the Board that the wording, both of the letter and of the marginal notes of the printed minutes is, in more than one instance, unwarranted by the facts and unfair to Miss Evans.

On the other hand, the Board are unable to avoid the conclusion that the Guardians have evinced a want of due consideration for the Matron's position, and this must, in the Board's view, have had a detrimental effect on the discipline and administration of the Infirmary.

The Board would also advert to the following statement on page 26 of your letter:—"As to the reference to young Nurses and Probationers going to smoking concerts (even though Guardians and Officers of the Infirmary were present) and remaining out till after midnight, the Guardians submit that it is not their place, or the duty of a Matron, to control their Officers and Servants when they are off duty, or to make any enquiries as to their whereabouts." The Board desire me to express their strong dissent from the views thus stated, and they trust that, upon further consideration, the Guardians will realize the conduct and well-being of their officers at all times is a matter which should deeply concern them.

The Board request that when the Guardians have appointed a successor to Miss Evans, the particulars of the appointment may be communicated to them in one of the enclosed forms.

I am directed to add that a copy of this letter has been forwarded to Miss Evans for her information.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) W. E. KNOLLYS,  
Assistant Secretary.

We offer our own sincere tribute of admiration and gratitude to Miss Evans for the admirable manner in which she has proved once more that "the ultimate success of justice is inevitable when the true virtues of truth and courage clasp hand in hand."

Miss Evans has undertaken new duties in the Isle of Wight, and we wish her a bright and happy future, hoping that her health, which has been much undermined of late by the persecution to which she has been subjected, may be speedily restored.

## Nursing Sub-Committees.

THERE appears to be a very strong opposition on the part of many Boards of Guardians to allow Sub-Committees on Nursing, or Infirmary Committees, to be formed. It is very difficult to understand their reluctance on this point, as it would seem to be obvious that such committees would make it their object to enter into the question, and would take some trouble in acquiring the necessary technical information to guide them in their deliberations. There are many members on Boards of Guardians who are admirable financiers; to them might be entrusted the detail work of figures. Others are clever at "supply"; let their talent be used in the direction in which it is greatest. And let those who are interested in Nursing and Hospital work have their special faculties utilised by being made members of committees whose duty it is to consult with the Matron and arrange the affairs of the sick.

DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.  
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DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.  
Recalls the Delicious Tea of Thirty Years Ago.

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