

courage to give effect to it. In the letters written to invite the attendance of selected candidates, it was plainly stated that the expenses of the successful candidate would be paid, with her first quarter's salary. But, having passed this resolution, when a lady sent the master into the room to ask for the loan of a sovereign because she hadn't enough to get home with, the Board at once authorised payment to her of that amount. They could only now grin and bear it, and, having learnt wisdom, refuse the next application of the kind."

Mr. Hull further remarked "that the members of the Board would remember that he had asked this nurse whether she was quite willing to come, and that in reply she said she would come for three months. It wasn't only a matter of having advanced this woman her expenses, but there was also the expense of advertising which must be considered. Lately the Board had spent in advertising and expenses a sum which would pay a nurse's salary for twelve months." It was ultimately agreed to that the clerk was to resist the payment of the 17s., and to ask for the return of the £1 from Nurse Lyon.

As it was proved that this nurse undertook to accept the post advertised "for three months," and as she has declined to fulfil her contract, would it not be well, for the sake of future arrangements, to contest this case in the County Court, as to whether or not she is responsible for a month's wages to the Guardians in lieu of service? It is an absolutely preposterous state of things that the rates should be squandered on paying large sums of money for the travelling expenses of persons who are at liberty to cause endless inconvenience and expense by an unscrupulous breach of contract. We should advise the British Guardian to adopt the prompt and efficacious measures lately adopted by the Board of the Johannesburg Hospital in connection with their nursing staff.

A CORRESPONDENT from the States writes:

"American Nurses are surprised at the coolness, not to say frigidity, with which Miss Kimber's book, 'Anatomy and Physiology for Nurses,' has been received in England. It may not be understood there that Miss Kimber is an Englishwoman, although trained in this country. She is a graduate of Bellevue, and has been in hospital work for the past ten years. As a woman, a nurse, and a teacher, she is one of whom her native land might well feel proud. Her book has had a great success in this country, and is in general use as a text-book. MacMillan took unusual pains to secure complete and valuable illustrations; the literary style is unusually good, and the manner in which the subject matter has been treated is most commendable."

The Hospital World.

SURGERY SYSTEMS.

GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL.

THE Great Northern Hospital, in the Holloway Road, always strikes one as fresh and clean and cared for, and in the out-patient department, where, in some hospitals there is greater laxity in point of trimness than is allowed in the wards, the same order prevails. It is hoped that a more detailed account of the methods of management pursued in this department at the Great Northern may be published in a future number of the NURSING RECORD, as the authorities are satisfied that the system adopted there is more free from abuse than that of any other London Hospital, but at present a committee is considering the subject with a view to making public their deliberations later on.

The investigation of the circumstances of the persons who apply for gratuitous relief is systematically and strictly carried out. A notice is placed in the out-patient rooms to the effect that the object of the charity is to afford gratuitous medical relief to those who are unable to pay for it, and that inquiries will be made, with a view to attaining this end. All persons who apply for relief pass first of all through an office, and questions are put to them by the inquiry officer. If they satisfy this official that they are suitable candidates for relief they are passed on into the waiting-room; but if he has reason to suppose that they can pay for medical assistance they are required to fill up a form answering certain searching questions, and if these answers are not satisfactory they are asked to bring a certificate from their club doctor or some other medical man to whom they are known, certifying that they are suitable objects for gratuitous relief. Many persons to whom this certificate is given never return with it filled in. In the daytime the out-patient and casualty departments are under the care of a sister. She is assisted by an untrained woman, who keeps order in the waiting-room, and by a porter. At night the night superintendent attends in the casualty room when required, and there is usually an extra night nurse on duty who is available if necessary. There are no beds in the casualty department, and cases which it is deemed expedient to detain for a short time are admitted at once to the wards. The hospital is to be congratulated upon having plenty of space at its disposal, so that there is no inconvenient cramping of the out-patient arrangements. The arrangement of the books in which the prescriptions of the out-patients are kept leaves nothing to be desired in the way of tidiness.

M. B.

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