

Annotations.

CO-OPERATION AMONGST NURSES.

THE Nurses' Co-operation in New Cavendish Street, presents a most successful annual report. The society has now 400 members; the receipts for 1896, amounted to £33,395 os. 3d., of which the nurses received £30,892 2s. 9d., and funds to the amount of £3,067 2s. 8d. have been invested in the past three years. This is proof positive of the success of the co-operative system of work amongst nurses, and the fact that the society was founded by nurses—and that the members delegate a certain number from amongst themselves, upon the Managing Committee—is also proof of the capacity of women to manage their own affairs. Such representation of the nurses on the Committee, is based on a sound policy, and we congratulate the Nurses' Co-operation on its continued success.

GUZZLING GUARDIANS.

LIKE Byron, Mr. John Lobb, P.L.G., "has awaked to find himself famous," and we heartily congratulate him upon his plucky action in exposing the guzzling, at the ratepayers' expense, of the City Guardians. There is a false standard of official honour, which would compel members of Committees—if they find themselves in conscientious opposition with the proceedings and policy of their colleagues—to condone what they consider wrong, either by resigning, or by accepting as conclusive the vote of the majority. From such sentiments, we strongly dissent, and we consider the only honourable and courageous conduct, upon the part of each member of a Committee, is, to protest privately, and, if necessary for the public good, publicly, against any line of action upon the part of his colleagues which he is convinced is wrong. The facts of Mr. Lobb's indictment against the City Guardians, of which he is one, are set out in a letter to the Local Government Board, which is such a crushing indictment that we quote it at length, and heartily endorse his opinions in every particular, feeling quite sure that these gross abuses which he has exposed will be peremptorily prohibited for the future from headquarters.

To the Right Hon. Henry Chaplin, M.P.,
President of the Local Government Board.

Re The City Guardians, their Luncheons and Dinners
at the Bow Infirmary, and the Workhouse at
Homerton.

SIR,—I would respectfully suggest, that it is high time that the luncheons and dinners, at the Bow Infirmary, and the Workhouse at Homerton, should be stopped or modified.

At the Meeting of the Board of Guardians on Tuesday last, March 16th, the following motion was printed on the Board's paper of business:—

In pursuance of Notice of Motion given and handed to the Clerk, Mr. John Lobb to move—
"That the dining by the Guardians at the Workhouse at Homerton, and the Infirmary at Bow, after the business of the Weekly Rotas, House Committee, Contract Committee, and Call-over Committees be discontinued, and that the Master of the Workhouse, and Steward of the Infirmary, be directed accordingly. This shall not apply to the light luncheon now supplied prior to the commencement of the business."

I regret to state that after a long and heated debate the motion was lost.

I now appeal to your Honourable Board to move in the matter. These are the facts: The weekly "Rota Committee" consists of about ten Guardians, exclusive of the Chairman of the Board, the Vice-Chairman and Deputy-Chairman, who are invariably present on these occasions.

In addition to the above, other Guardians than those on the Rota often attend. On the Board's paper of business the following notice appears: "Any Guardian is at liberty to attend the 'Visiting Rota.'"

Other Committees are held in each of the two Houses.

The business occupies from an hour to an hour and a-half; then follows the dinner, consisting of—

Fish, three kinds.

Joint of mutton or beef.

Poultry.

Variety of puddings and sweets.

Cheese, butter, biscuits, celery.

The wines consist of hock, claret, champagne, and whisky.

After grace the cloth is cleared, and dessert consists of pine-apples, almonds, raisins, &c.

The drink consists at this part of the proceedings mainly of whisky; then follow the toasts—

The Queen and the Royal Family.

The Chairman of the Board.

The Vice-Chairman of the Board.

The Chairman for the Day.

The Vice-Chairman for the Day.

The Chairman of the House Committee.

The Clerk to the Board.

The Chairman of the Bow Infirmary (should he be present).

The Chairman of the Contract Committee (should he be present).

The Chairman of Thavies Inn Committee (should he be present).

The oldest Guardian.

The youngest Guardian.

The Chairman of the Hanwell Schools (should he be present).

It is only fair to state that some of the Guardians refuse to go through the above list.

Then follows tea or coffee before leaving. The average time at which the Guardians leave the Institution is 8 o'clock.

I wish to emphasize the fact that the whole of the kitchen apparatus is given up to the preparation of these meals; that the energies of the kitchen staff are unduly taxed; and that, moreover, outside the dining-room at Homerton there are between thirty and forty of the new and old inmates waiting in the hall to be seen by the Guardians, in the knowledge that the Guardians' table groans under plenty, whilst the inmates have to content themselves with the fare of the

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