

"It would be pleasant to be able to report improvement and progress in the condition of the nursing arrangements in workhouse infirmaries as a whole. Unfortunately, if there is progress, it is very slow, and in some instances there is actual retrogression."

This does not apply to the larger infirmaries, where there are trained superintendents. There the work goes on steadily improving. Miss Fynes-Clinton also comments on the lack of provision for adequate nursing at night in many infirmaries.

She ends her report by saying:—

"It is only fair to add that there are some country infirmaries which are in excellent order, and where much is done for the comfort of both patients and nurses. We look forward to the day, though it may be long in coming, when this happy state of things will be the rule, and not the exception."

FRISKY PHILANTHROPISTS.

In a recent issue of the *Penny Illustrated Paper*, we observe a sketch composed of clean-shaven Judges and Q.C.'s. seated at a festive board, provided with an ample supply of bottles and syphons. The majority of these gentlemen are represented puffing at pipes and cigars. Busy bombarding these men, collecting bags in hand, are a variety of female figures, *dressed in nursing uniform*. The sketch is headed "Smoking Concert of the Solicitors' Managing Clerks Association," and sub-lined "How Fair Amateur Nurses beguiled the Judges and Q.C.'s. into contributing to the Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund"!! Through the hazy atmosphere of the smoke-room there is something peculiarly incongruous in the appearance of these "fair amateurs," and we consider it a piece of gross impertinence upon the part of persons, evidently lacking all sense of good taste and feeling, to masquerade in the distinctive dress of professional women who nurse the sick, at such a function. It is to be hoped that the secretary of the Prince of Wales' Fund will intimate that skittish costumes culled from "behind the bar," and not those worn in the hospital ward, would be more fitting attire for frisky female philanthropists, when they wish to beguile the opposite sex.

ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL.

WE reprint the following letter from the *Liverpool Daily Post*:—

"SIR,—Permit me to trespass on your valuable space in order to call the attention of your readers to the annual report of the Liverpool Nurses' Institution in Erskine Street, which appeared in the columns of your paper on April 1st.

After the passing of the report and the committee's congratulating themselves on the very satisfactory

winding-up of the year with a balance of £200, we are told that it was decided 'to give out of the surplus a sum of £100 towards the building fund of the new Consumption Hospital.'

Being one of the many who have at different times during the last twenty-seven years benefited by the skilful and efficient services of different nurses from this most valuable institution, I should like to ask the committee whether it is right or just to hand over money which has been earned by the nurses to any charity, however good, until the future comfort of those who, by their faithful and untiring efforts, make this 'satisfactory balance' has been secured?

According to present arrangements, when a nurse has given her services to the institution for twenty-five years, she is entitled to the handsome retiring pension of £20 a year. If the committee consider it just to give away money from the funds of an institution before a more ample provision is made for the comfort of their inmates during their declining years, I cannot believe it will be the general opinion of your readers.

Would not an increase of the retiring pension seem a suitable commemoration of this year of Diamond Jubilee, and one in keeping with the well-known sympathy of our Queen?

Yours, &c.,

A SINCERE WELL-WISHER.

We entirely agree with the writer of this letter. We consider it quite inexcusable that a committee should devote the earnings of its nursing staff to any object, however laudable, other than the direct benefit of the nurses themselves, without their definitely expressed desire to this effect. We have on various occasions pointed out that if a private nurse take full fees of £2 2s. a week, only by frugality can she save sufficient to ensure her a moderate competence when her working days are past. We hope that the Committee of the Liverpool Nurses' Institution will re-consider its indefensible action, and conclude that it is their duty to be just before they are generous, if the bestowal of money, which is not legitimately theirs to give, can be called by the name of generosity.

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