

on the private nursing staff. We are informed that the committee "still decline to take probationers for training; no nurse is now engaged who has not undergone three years' training at some recognised institution." The private nurses receive a percentage on their earnings in addition to a fixed salary.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Frome Board of Guardians, the matron of the workhouse complained that a patient had been admitted into the house with bad bed sores, and in a filthy condition. As the woman had been attended by two paid nurses it was decided to ask them to attend at the next meeting of the board, the medical officer being present, to give an explanation.

SIR JOHN ARNOTT, Bart., has forwarded a subscription of £500 to the fund for providing Jubilee nurses for the poor in Ireland. He stipulates that the gift shall be used for the benefit of the poor in Cork.

THE friction at the meetings of the Belfast Board of Guardians continues. It will be remembered that after some considerable discussion the Guardians conceded that three nurses might go voluntarily from the Infirmary to the Fever Hospital. At the last meeting of the Guardians Mr. Oswald made the following statement:—

"On Wednesday Dr. Gibson asked the Infirmary nurses if they would go to the Hospital, and they refused. Dr. Gibson wrote a letter stating that the nurses would not come, and Dr. Biggar told Mr. Weir, the Master, that a special meeting should be called. Then Dr. Biggar went to Mr. M'Kibbin, who came to the Workhouse, accompanied by the doctor, and the nurses were paraded and coerced into going to the Hospital. Now, did the nurses go voluntarily, or were they forced?"

The matron of the Infirmary, who was sent for, said the nurses said they would go to the hospital if they obtained a certificate for the time they served there. They declined to go without an increase of salary and a certificate of service.

A nurse who was questioned confirmed this statement, and added that she wished to say the salary was too small for the arduous nature of the work.

Mr. M'Kibbin desired that the nurses should be asked who told them that they would get no credit for the time they served in the hospital. He asserted that there was a great deal of petty jealousy in the Infirmary, caused by Guardians, who should be above such petty meanness, going backwards and forwards and talking to the nurses.

Mr. Oswald thought a vote of censure should be passed upon Mr. M'Kibbin, and that Dr. Biggar should be reprimanded.

For what! Presumably for looking after the interests of the patients for whom he is responsible.

At a meeting of ladies of Cape Town and the suburbs, held for the purpose of furthering the establishment of the "Victoria Nurses' Institute," it was announced that Miss Martha Miller, a fully qualified and certificated nurse, had, from the intense interest taken by her in nursing generally, and in the effort to found the Institute in particular, offered her services free to the Home for a year, to help to start it. We hope that this generous and public-spirited gift on the part of a member of the nursing profession, may induce other nurses to follow so good an example, and also may inspire the public with the desire to help those who help themselves.

In a recent issue, the *Brighton Argus* gives some advice to nurses which appears to us to be unsound as well as revolting. It is this:

"Nurses of experience, who can show that they have passed the examination of the Obstetrical Society and kindred bodies, would do well to think seriously of emigration. There is a great field for enterprise awaiting them in Africa, especially, perhaps, in Johannesburg, where prices rule high and where good nurses are scarce. It is a mistake for nurses to go out to an institution. They may get a poor £60 a year for twelve months' hard work, while the proprietors of the institution reap enormous profits from their services. Now is the time when nurses can either make their share of the floating wealth of the Rand, or else ally themselves for better or for worse with a member of the floating population. They may consider, however, that a spell of hard work may be preferable to the latter contingency, and, if so, it would appear from the reports of those on the spot that nurses ready to take their courage in both hands and go out alone, armed only with their skill, and, if possible, with a letter of introduction to local doctors, can soon make a considerable income."

The suggestion that nurses should take their courage in both hands, and start off for South Africa on the chance of "allying themselves for better or for worse with members of the floating population," appears to us worthy of having emanated from Mr. Hall Caine, while the alternative suggestion that they should "go out alone, armed only with their skill, and, if possible, letters of introduction to local doctors," is, in our opinion, advice which should on no account be followed. We have good reason to believe that nurses should make most careful inquiries before proceeding abroad, and should only do so when they have secured definite appointments.

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