

by the Guardians without the consent of the Commissioners.' So in Article 165 it is also provided that 'no person shall hold the office of Nurse who is not able to read written directions upon medicines.' And in Article 99 of the same Order, the master is empowered to employ any pauper whom he 'may deem fit to perform any of the duties of a Nurse or Assistant to the Matron in the sick wards.'

Thus it will be observed that, in the contemplation of the Local Government Board, the Nurse is a mere servant, ranking after the porter, not called upon to produce any certificate of professional competency, and possibly illiterate, except for the requirement of one of the three R's.

Moreover, not having the status of an officer, the Nurse has no right to accommodation or to rations, and is dependent for them upon the courtesy of the Master and Matron, or of the Guardians."

This classification is wrong, and must be altered before better discipline can be expected in workhouse wards.

REGISTERED Nurses will appreciate the kindly letter sent by Dr. Walter Maine, of Clacton-on-Sea, to the *British Medical Journal*, in defence of their just rights and privileges. He writes:—

"SIR, — Will you kindly allow me space in the *British Medical Journal* to protest against the attempt to place untrained Asylum Attendants on the Register of trained Nurses? Can this be fair to those Nurses who have worked so hard to obtain the position they hold, or to the public, who, in trusting the lives of those they place under the Nurse's care, should at least have the satisfaction of knowing, without the shadow of a doubt, that they are in the hands of properly trained persons? What guarantee also will the doctor have that he is doing his level best for his patient if he is not sure about the qualifications of the Nurse that he orders? Owing my life in a great measure to the skill and attention of Registered Nurses, I feel I should be wanting in common gratitude, if I did not render my humble protest against such an injustice."

It is to be hoped that other medical men, who have interested themselves in improving the education and status of trained Nurses, and who are showing their appreciation of their work by advising their patients to employ them, will take some public action at this crisis to prevent the perpetration of this gross and irretrievable injustice to a body of women whose economic condition places them very much at the mercy of the medical profession.

WE are glad to observe that the Local Government Board has refused to consent to the rescinding by the Guardians of the City of London Union of the resolution providing for the admission of, and training of, Probationers. The ignorance and constant obstruction to progress in connection with the Nursing Department by the Guardians of this Institution have made the efficient care of the sick an impossibility to those officials appointed to effect the same.

ADDED to the Christmas festivities held at the Wigan Infirmary, and making them doubly interesting to the Nurses and their friends, was the ceremony of presenting the certificates of competency to the class of graduate Nurses. This pleasing function was performed by Mrs. Ffarington in the Nurses' sitting-room, where many of the former Sisters and Nurses were welcomed by Miss MacIntyre, the Matron, whose term of office has resulted in a marked advance in Nursing methods, and under whose able superintendence the Nursing School has risen greatly in public estimation.

Mrs. Ffarington said a few words of kind congratulation to each Nurse as she presented her with her certificate. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Ffarington, proposed by Mr. Mitchell Roorcroft, and seconded by Mr. Phillips, met with a very hearty response from the audience, and Mrs. Ffarington, in reply, said it gave her very great pleasure to perform this very pleasing ceremony. She offered her heartiest congratulations to the Nurses, and wished them every possible success. She spoke in terms of warm praise and gratitude of her experience of service rendered in her own household by the Nurses from time to time, and of the help and comfort the Infirmary was, not only to the poorer people who were, and ought to be, the first consideration of the Hospital authorities, but also to the well-to-do, who invariably found ready help and kindly sympathy when requiring the services of the Nurses in their own homes. Mrs. Ffarington said that, in common with all Wiganers, she felt justly proud of the Infirmary, and often wondered how they had managed before they had such an institution.

In consideration of the sweeping condemnation of trained Nurses as a class, to which the press has lately given publicity, it is good to gather, from those intimately acquainted with their daily work, that it is still worthy of warm commendation.

A most enjoyable Christmastide "At Home" was held at the Adelaide Hospital, Dublin, the guests being welcomed in most cheery fashion by the Matron, Miss Fitzpatrick, and the Resident Surgeon, Dr. Daw. The visitors inspected the wards, which were most tastefully decorated. An exceptionally attractive concert was held during the afternoon, the audience filling the large hall to its fullest capacity. Dr. Power O'Donoghue kindly conducted, and the music was admirably rendered. Mrs. Boucher recited a touching piece by Mrs. O'Donoghue with grace and earnestness.

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