

secretary, it is reported, had absolutely no experience of official duties when she was appointed to this important and well-paid post—a fact to which the few independent members of the Executive Committee took strong exception. We have said before, that the mere fact of a young woman being the relative, patient, or personal friend of medical members of the Executive Committee, does not necessarily qualify her, *without training and experience*, to fill an important public position, and receive £100 a year of the nurses' money, as Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association! It is quite time the press took up this question of hole-and-corner patronage in the present management of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

THE friends and colleagues of Miss Katherine Davie, on the R. N. S., will be pleased to learn she has safely arrived with her patient in Rio de Janeiro. She says: "I found my NURSING RECORD awaiting me; it was like an old friend; I very soon read and enjoyed every word of it." We receive many of our most appreciative letters of thanks for the RECORD from friends abroad, who otherwise, they say, would get no true report of nursing affairs at home.

THE Cumberland Nursing Association is receiving a considerable amount of support. The first list of subscriptions announces that annual subscriptions have been promised to the amount of £89, while donations have been received amounting to £330.

At a recent meeting of the Stone Guardians, the nurse applied for an increase of salary, for a half-holiday from two to ten once a fortnight instead of from the present hours, six to nine, and for full control of the hospital ward. She stated in regard to the latter that she resented the interference of the matron, and she further complained of the number of cold dinners and of the food generally. The master and matron said that the nurse had exactly the same food as the master, matron and other officials. The Board informed the nurse that none of her applications could be granted, and that she was under the control of the matron. The nurse thereupon resigned, and it was decided to engage a successor. When will this constant friction between untrained and usually ill-educated workhouse matrons and the professional nurse cease? It is to be feared not until trained nurses are selected as workhouse matrons. We congratulate this nurse upon her courage in bringing her justifiable grievance directly to the notice of the guardians before resigning her position. It is to be hoped that her successor will also apply for a fortnightly half-holiday, and the right to carry out the doctors' treatment of the patients, without the

personal interference of the workhouse master and matron.

It is borne in upon us many times in the course of the year, that the nursing in Irish workhouse infirmaries leaves much to be desired. This is scarcely to be wondered at, when such advertisements as the following still find their way into the papers:—

"EDENDERRY UNION.

"The Board of Guardians of the above Union will, at their meeting on Saturday, the 2nd day of October, 1897, proceed to appoint Two Wardmaids to attend on the sick in the Infirmary, at a salary of £12 per annum, with rations (which amount to about 6s. per week each), two suits of cotton uniform, two caps, and four aprons per year each.

"On the same day they will elect a Wardman for the Fever Hospital, at a remuneration of 7s. per week and rations.

"Applications, enclosing copies of testimonials addressed to the presiding Chairman, will be received by me up to 11 o'clock a.m. on the above-named day, when the candidates must be in attendance.

"(By Order)

"T. HUMPHREY F. BOR,

"Clerk of Union.

"Board Room, 18th September, 1897."

Presumably the guardians do not require persons who are absolutely ignorant of the duties they undertake. If, on the other hand, these miserable salaries are being offered to persons who have been trained to nurse the sick, can depreciation of the trained nurse go further?

WE hear a good deal about the necessity for a missionary being "a good all-round man," and we are inclined to believe it after reading the following extract from a letter written by the Rev. Spencer Weigall, from Masite, South Africa, and published in this month's *Central Africa*:—

"I had a bit of surgery the other day—the first of the kind I have ever done myself—a man had his foot half torn off by an ox. He refused to go into hospital. After some weeks he sent and implored me to come and cut it off for him. At length I consented to go and see what I could do, but very reluctantly, as my hands were both bad with carbuncles. The man lives an hour's ride from here in a very out-of-the-way place. I found him in a bad way—foot completely mortified and gangrene spread up to the calf, no possible chance of life except amputation, and then only faint, as he was so weak I thought he might die under chloroform. I had no assistance except a native who had never seen anything of the kind before. So I chloroformed the poor chap, and then took his leg off at the knee, and made the best I could of it, but was handicapped by bad hands considerably. To my great relief he came round after the operation, and still lives—this is now a fortnight since the operation. I don't know if he will pull through, but he has a chance. I go over about every three days to see him and dress the stump; he's more likely to die than live."

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