

The Abolition of Pauper Nursing in Irish Workhouse Infirmaries.

TEXT OF THE L.G.B. ORDER.

The following is a copy of the order issued by the Local Government Board to all the Boards of Guardians in Ireland, abolishing the system of pauper nursing in Irish workhouses:—

WORKHOUSE RULES—NURSING OF THE SICK.

To the workhouses of the several unions named in the schedule hereunto annexed, and to all whom it may concern.

Whereas, in exercise of the powers vested in them by the statutes in that behalf, the Commissioners for administering the laws for relief of the poor in Ireland, and the Local Government Board for Ireland, did by certain orders under seal make rules and regulations for regulating the management of workhouses in Ireland, and the appointment, qualification, and duties of workhouse officers including those charged with the nursing of the sick poor relieved in such workhouses; and whereas it is expedient that further regulations in regard to such nursing should be made as hereafter set forth.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers vested in us we, the Local Government Board for Ireland, do hereby order, direct, and declare that on, from, and after the 30th day of September instant, the following regulations shall, except in so far as we may assent to a departure therefrom, be enforced in the several unions named in the schedule—

In this order the expression "guardians" means the Board of Guardians in any union, or the body acting in execution of the duties of such Board of Guardians.

The expression "workhouse" means the workhouse of any such union and any fever hospital of such union under the control of the guardians.

The expressions "medical officer," "master," and "matron" mean the medical officer, master, and matron of such union under the control of the guardians.

The expression "nurse of the workhouse" means the nurse appointed in pursuance of our general order of the 28th June, 1895.

Notwithstanding anything contained in any of the orders above referred to, no pauper inmate of the workhouse shall be employed to perform the duties of nurse in the workhouse, or be otherwise employed in nursing any pauper in the workhouse who requires nursing.

No pauper inmate of the workhouse shall be employed as an attendant in the sick or lying-in wards of the workhouse, or upon any pauper of the workhouse who requires nursing, unless such inmate shall be approved by the medical officer for the purpose, and shall come under the immediate supervision of a paid officer of the guardians.

It shall be the duty of the nurse of the workhouse to superintend and control the other nurses, assistant nurses, and attendants in the workhouse in the performance of their duties, but such superintendence and control shall, in all matters of treatment of the sick, be subject to the directions of the medical officer, and in all other matters to the directions of the master or matron, so far as the orders in force in the union and the lawful directions of the guardians may require or permit.

If in an emergency it appears to the medical officer that the employment of a temporary nurse is required for the proper treatment of any case or cases in the workhouse, and he informs the master in writing accordingly, it shall be the duty of the master to engage a person to act as nurse until the next meeting of the guardians, and the guardians shall pay a reasonable remuneration to the person so engaged.

Sealed this 11th day of September, 1897.

G. W. BALFOUR.
GEORGE MORRIS.
F. M'CABE.
H. A. ROBINSON.

ASHBOURNE.
GERALD FITZGIBBON.

We, the Lords, Justices-General and General Governors of Ireland, do hereby approve this order.

By command of their Excellencies,
J. B. DOUGHERTY.

It is with the greatest satisfaction that we chronicle the fact of the Abolition of Pauper Nursing in Irish Workhouse Infirmaries. The evils which have arisen out of this system have long been a scandal and disgrace, and the impossibility of improving the condition of the Infirmaries, so long as pauper help was employed, has been abundantly demonstrated. There can, therefore, be but one opinion on the part of all interested in the well-being of the sick, and in nursing reform, upon the introduction of the new Order. We congratulate the Local Government Board, upon at length abolishing the crying evil of pauper nursing.

Timely Help.

AFTER we had gone to press last week, the Mayor of Maidstone (Dr. Oliver) received the following telegram from Princess Christian:—"Am requested by Princess Christian to offer services of three trained nurses. When shall they come? and can you arrange accommodation?—George H. Peters, Lockerbie, Windsor." Dr. Oliver immediately telegraphed his thanks to her Royal Highness, and the three nurses selected by the Princess arrived in the town the next day, where we have no doubt they are doing good work.

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