

We should be glad to hear that the services of those nurses who did such excellent work at Gloucester during the small-pox epidemic had received some public recognition. The work was exceptionally arduous and trying, and the devotion of the nurses to their duty was beyond all praise. It would be a graceful act on the part of the Gloucester Town Council, if they were to express in a tangible form their appreciation of the value of those services.

THE Ipswich Guardians have sent a deputation to the Local Government Board for the purpose of obtaining their sanction to the appointment of the matron of the workhouse as superintendent nurse. Upon the deputation laying before Mr. Knollys the impossibility of finding accommodation for a superintendent nurse in the old workhouse, Mr. Knollys observed that if the Guardians guaranteed to appoint a superintendent nurse on the completion of the new workhouse he was sure the Board would defer the matter till then. At the last meeting of the Guardians it was accordingly proposed that this guarantee should be given. The Clerk suggested that the Board should give no such guarantee. "He thought that the Local Government Board would ultimately find that greater difficulties would arise in connection with the appointment of superintendent nurses than in giving Matrons those positions." The Clerk's suggestion was adopted, and the matter dropped.

THE Local Government Board have reported to the Conway Board of Guardians, with reference to the official inquiry as to the points at issue between the matron of the workhouse and the trained nurse, that:—

"The board regret to observe the friction and unpleasant relations that are shown to have existed between the matron and the nurse, and they are informed by their inspector that these are but a continuance of an unsatisfactory state of affairs which has existed more or less since the first appointment of a trained nurse, and they are led to the conclusion that the master and matron have at least been injudicious and needlessly interfering with the nurses and their duties. In the cases more immediately before the Board the conduct of the matron fully justified them in drawing this inference. The Board are most desirous that no obstructions should be placed in the way of the performance of their duties to the sick inmates of the workhouse by trained nurses, and, in expressing their sense of dissatisfaction at the relations existing between the master and matron on the one hand and the nursing staff on the other, they trust that the present warning to the first-named officers will be sufficient to effect a wholesome and complete reform in this respect, and that there will be no further cause for complaint, any recurrence of which will not be met with the same leniency on their part."

This expression of opinion on the part of the Local Government Board should make the difficult position of the trained nurse, working under an untrained matron, somewhat easier.

THE Greenock Parish Council have decided, we think wisely, to reduce the diet supplied to the Hospital Nurses. We agree with Councillor Baxter that the old dietary scale was abnormal. Imagine each nurse consuming, as she was supposed to do, three-quarters of a pound of beef daily, and one and a half pounds of potatoes. Most nurses, also, would find it difficult to get through a pint and a half of milk every day, and the weekly allowance of butter, cheese, bacon, sugar, etc., appears to be on a like liberal scale. We would suggest to the Greenock Parish Council, however, that instead of reducing the diet scale, they should abolish it altogether. Presumably there is an efficient Matron to the Hospital, and she would surely be able to cater most successfully, as well as economically, for the nurses if allowed a free hand. Why should these unfortunate nurses be supposed to consume three-quarters of a pound of beef daily, year in, year out, and never vary this, even with mutton or veal? Or again, why should they have a choice between two ounces of bacon every day, and nothing? Why not make a change with eggs, fish, etc.? Any good housekeeper will find many ways of varying the diet in an appetising, and, at the same time, economical way. The system of daily diets is a relic of the days when the heads of institutions were untrained, and when the moral probity of these officials was not always above suspicion. But it is surely wiser to give the modern matron some latitude in the catering department, provided her weekly bills do not exceed more than a certain average per head.

It is a matter for thankfulness that various attempts are being made to introduce much needed reforms into Irish Workhouse Infirmaries, the condition of which is, in many instances, known to be appalling. The recent order of the Local Government Board with regard to pauper nurses has naturally given an opening for reform, and we hear of various infirmaries in which a system of training probationers is being introduced. The Irish probationers, we are told, prove themselves very intelligent, and do their work well; indeed, they appear to be worthy of a more diversified and systematic training than can be given in the wards of country infirmaries. Probably the suggestion, made by Miss Gill, of the Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association, that probationers should be bound, for a term of years, to serve in workhouse infirmaries; that the first three of these should be spent in the large metropolitan infirmaries, and that, if they succeed in obtaining certificates at the end of this period, that they should then be passed on to the smaller infirmaries, might be adopted in Ireland with advantage. We note that the Irish nuns appreciate the advent of trained nurses into their infirmaries, and are glad of the opportunity thus afforded of learning the best methods of work. We have always held that, provided the nuns could obtain thorough training, they are specially qualified, by reason of the life to

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