

“THE MEDICAL AND NURSING STAFF.”

At the Annual Dinner of the Poplar Hospital for Accidents, held recently at the Holborn Town Hall, Mr. George R. Sims gave the toast of the “Medical and Nursing Staff.” The fact is noteworthy, as we do not remember ever to have heard of a similar toast before. The principle demonstrated is one which we have always laid down, that medicine and nursing advance hand in hand, and that either is incomplete, and shorn of more than half its value, without the other. It follows, therefore, that defective organisation of either profession must prejudicially affect the other. When this fact is fully grasped it may be hoped that the necessity for the State recognition of, and legislation for, the nursing profession, on the same lines as that of the medical profession will be recognised also, and that the public will demand that as there is a register of medical men, so there shall also be one of nurses to which they may have access, in order that they may know who are trained nurses and who are not. And further, that, as the medical and nursing professions are so intimately associated, legislation for nurses must of necessity follow on the lines of those laid down for medical men; and that nurses must satisfy an independent board of examiners that they can efficiently tend either medical, surgical, or obstetric cases, before they are entitled to the name of trained nurse; as a medical man must qualify in these three branches—although he may intend to devote himself exclusively to the practice of one—before he is eligible to be placed on the medical register. We cannot conclude this notice of the dinner of the Poplar Hospital without drawing attention to the fact stated by the chairman on that occasion—Mr. Thomas Catling—that “The Hospital, under Miss Bland’s efficient control, was being conducted in the most smooth and harmonious manner, the sisters and nurses forming a united band of workers towards its practical efficiency.” We notice that this is invariably the case in institutions with which Mr. Sydney Holland is connected, and the reason we believe is, that nurses are fully aware that their interests are always carefully safeguarded by this gentleman, while they themselves receive the consideration to which, as members of an honourable calling, they are entitled. We wish that there were many more hospital managers like Mr. Sydney Holland. The nursing world would be the better for them.

“PICKINGS FOR PIGS.”

AN animated discussion as to whether feeding the pigs on bread was, or was not, “awful

and sinful waste” took place at the last meeting of the Tonbridge Board of Guardians. It appears that an obsolete regulation of the Local Government Board prescribes that each pauper shall be supplied with a certain quantity of bread daily, and to save trouble this amount—amply sufficient for the most healthy appetite—is given to each inmate whether he can possibly eat it or not. The result is an enormous surplus supply which daily finds its way into the “hog tub,” and thence becomes pig food. In the opinion of Mr. Manwaring “bread was at the present time about as cheap a thing as anything they could feed pigs upon.” We are glad, however, to observe that Mr. Clifford was justly indignant at such “awful and sinful waste,” and that ultimately a resolution urging the Local Government Board to make some alteration in the sick dietary table was carried. What is required is that the bread should be cut, and not given out in hunks, so that each inmate should have supplied what he can eat, and no more. It is only a few years ago that the system of giving half a loaf to each patient in the wards of the general hospitals of London was in force—the leavings being cleared out of the lockers every morning. As a sister at the London Hospital, we saw upwards of 100 lbs. of bread a week thus wasted. Lord Sandhurst has also publicly stated that when chairman of the Middlesex Hospital, he saved a large sum yearly on the bread bill by regulating the supply. The sooner the Local Government Board decrees that some official shall be responsible for distributing the diets according to the appetite of the inmates, and not according to weight, the better for the ratepayers’ pocket. “Bread fed” Tonbridge ham and bacon should in the meantime command a high market value. Why not form a syndicate?

Appointment.

MISS ELIZABETH DUNWOODY has been appointed superintendent nurse of the Workhouse Infirmary of the Blackburn Union. Miss Dunwoody was trained for three years at the Brownlow Hill Workhouse Infirmary, Liverpool, after which she was head nurse at Smithston Infirmary Poorhouse and Asylum, Greenock, for four years. She then worked at the Mill Road Infirmary, Liverpool, for twelve months, after which she was appointed more than five years ago as head nurse at the Lewisham Union Infirmary, which post she at present holds. It will thus be seen that Miss Dunwoody has had a long and varied experience in workhouse infirmary nursing to qualify her for her new post.

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