

of the report of the Hospital of St. Cross, Rugby, is interesting:—

"The Chairman went on to say that since the report was printed, the hospital had sustained a serious loss, in the resignation of the matron, who was going to Bristol, to fulfil a larger office there. Anyone who had had anything to do with the working of the hospital knew how exceedingly well, during the short time the matron had been there, she had conducted the whole management of the place (applause), so that there was no doubt her loss was a serious one to the hospital. At the same time the Board had a successor recommended to them. She was first suggested by the present matron—one who was trained at the same place with her—at the London Hospital. She brought excellent testimonials of all kinds, and had had a very varied experience since the time she passed through her training. The Board had since appointed her to be the matron, and they had reason to think that things would go on in a thoroughly satisfactory way. Of course the Board regretted the departure of the present matron, but at the same time they felt her great capabilities and powers and energies would have a larger field in which to exercise themselves than they had had at Rugby, and they hoped she would do a corresponding amount of good."

THE nurses, whose conduct has been so discredit-able at Chester Workhouse Infirmary, are under the direction of the Northern Workhouse Nurses' Association, and the Superintendent has wisely withdrawn them all, and replaced them with other members of the staff. The important question for Boards of Guardians is, will these nurses be sent to other infirmaries? If so, it is to be hoped they will be severely cautioned not to repeat their Chester escapades.

At a meeting of the Cocker-mouth Guardians, Mr. Joseph Ross proposed the appointment of Mrs. Joyce, of Whitehaven, as head nurse, after she had personally appeared before the Guardians. "He did not wish to say much, but some of these young things were flighty, and had peculiar notions. (Laughter.) Mrs. Joyce had a settled appearance, and seemed as if she would stay."

A PAPER contributed to the last issue of *Asylum News* by Mr. David Blair, M.A., M.B., Assistant Medical Officer of the County Asylum, Lancaster, is a plea for the systematic training of asylum nurses and attendants, and contains much valuable information and advice. "Even medical officers," we are told, "of many years' standing are to be found who openly ridicule its necessity, and emphatically deny its desirability. They demand proof that the education of the staff adds one to the recovery rate of the asylum. They remind us that 'a little knowledge is a dangerous thing,' serving no practical purpose, but tending to foster intolerable self-conceit. The good time-honoured asylum nurse who has had no so-called training, but is the product of her own experience and

common sense, is triumphantly upheld as the nearest approach to perfection attainable." These arguments are perfectly familiar to us. They have been used over and over again as a conclusive objection to the efficient training of hospital nurses, and it is noteworthy that history repeats itself, and, as in the hospital world, so it is in the asylums, "the best superintendents of asylums all enthusiastically encourage, if they do not actually participate in, the training of their nurses."

Mr. Blair considers that it is "an uncalled for insult" to hold that the knowledge of the mental nurse makes her conceited. With this view we are in cordial sympathy. Why should a woman be held up to contempt because she desires conscientiously to qualify herself for her vocation in life? "It is not knowledge, but the lack of it," says Mr. Blair, "which engenders self-conceit. True knowledge and humility advance together."

As an instance of the difficulties caused by want of training the following instance was narrated by the lecturer. "I once desired a charge nurse of several years' experience to furnish me with the evening temperature of a patient for several nights consecutively. Doubting the accuracy of the temperatures with which she furnished me, I asked her to take the temperature in my presence. She straightway stuck the stem of the thermometer into the armpit, leaving the bulb projecting into the air! The poor girl had never really been shown how, but thought she would be expected to know, and was ashamed to confess her ignorance." In this case, at least, therefore, the neglect of the authorities to educate the attendant resulted in a temptation to duplicity, to which she succumbed!

A SIDELIGHT on the discipline of asylums is thrown by the suggestion made by Mr. Blair that in asylums where lectures are given "no counter attraction be allowed on that night." If there is a theatrical rehearsal on the same night, and the nurse has the choice of going to one or the other, she will not go to the class. Surely in any well organized institution the choice as to whether she shall attend lectures or not does not rest with the probationer! She is directed to do so.

BLACKMAILING the paupers by the nurses in Irish Workhouse Infirmaries seems rampant, according to the Irish press, and it is a form of abuse which requires putting down with a firm hand.

IN many unions the increase in pauper inmates and application for outdoor relief is becoming alarming. The Swinford Guardians have passed a resolution threatening to resign in a body, "on the ground that the Government contribution is totally inadequate, and unless their solicitations for special treatment are complied with." The Irish Workhouse Association have made arrangements to hold a public meeting in Dublin Mansion House.

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