

We regret to announce that Miss Clifford, the head night nurse of the Dungarvon Union Hospital, has fallen a victim to the epidemic of typhus fever which has been raging in the western district of that union. Miss Clifford contracted typhus of a very virulent character from the patients, twenty-seven of whom were suffering from the disease, and died after an illness of eight days' duration. The Board of Guardians adjourned their meeting as a mark of respect to the nurse, who died at her post. The funeral was very largely attended, and there were evidences of mourning throughout the district. The greatest sympathy is expressed for Captain Clifford, the father of the deceased nurse.

At a recent meeting of the Armagh Board of Guardians, the Clerk stated that no application had been received for the appointment of infirmary nurse; and the medical officer, Dr. Herron, stated it as his opinion that the reason that there were no applications was that the rations supplied were not up to the standard, and no nurse would stay in the house.

A STRONG letter having been received from the Local Government Board concerning the nursing arrangements, it was decided to suspend the advertisements for the present, and a committee was appointed to inquire into the matter.

THERE is to be a Local Government inquiry on oath into the facts connected with the Guardians' minutes bearing on the subject of the nurses employed by the Cashel Guardians. The nurses wrote to the Guardians making definite complaints, one being that two nurses, one of whom was attending malignant fever cases, and the other a case in the Infirmary which was being treated antiseptically, were required to share a bedroom in the fever hospital. It is stated by the Master of the Workhouse, on the other hand, that one of the nurses refused to occupy the only room available in the Workhouse.

GENERAL MERCER is appealing in the press for funds to help to found a Nursing Association in the Punjab, having for its head quarters the Hill station of Rasauli. General Mercer points out the urgent need that there is for nurses in this district, and the fact that the greater number of the deaths from enteric fever, a disease which is steadily on the increase in India, have been owing to the lack of skilled nurses. All who have had experience in enteric cases know the great importance of trained nursing to patients suffering from this disease, and it is sad to think that the lives of both civilians and soldiers are lost for want of such nursing. It is hoped that sufficient funds will be raised in the Punjab to procure the

services of three trained nurses, but General Mercer asserts that it is a "sad fact that three times this number could be almost constantly employed in nursing cases of serious illness amongst the civil and military officers in the Punjab as well as the rest of the European community." Lady Young, wife of the Lieut.-Governor, has consented to act as patroness of the Association in the Punjab, and will preside at a general meeting at Lahore, which will be called to elect a local committee responsible for the proper application of funds. Detailed information as to the Association may be obtained from General Mercer. "Aldie," Woodville Road, Ealing.

GERTRUDE SCHARPAARD, who has been termed the Florence Nightingale of the Orange Free State, has just died at the advanced age of one hundred and six years. She was one of the earliest settlers in the State, and when the differences arose between the British and Dutch, which ended after the engagement of Boomplaats in the loss to the British Empire of the Orange Free State, Gertrude Scharpaard exerted herself as a mediator between the two countries. When her public spirited efforts in this respect failed, she devoted herself to nursing the wounded in the campaign. All her sympathies were with the Boer arms, but fate led her to the British camp, and there, with the instincts of the true nurse who is uninfluenced by creed, politics, or personal prejudices, when a sick man, or woman needs her care, she nursed the wounded with devotion and skill. There are still veterans living, who remember well the facts which we have recorded, and who will receive with deep regret the news of the death of this lady.

HAS it ever occurred to our readers to wonder how in uncivilized or only partially civilized countries, where there are few roads and no carriages to be hired, sick patients are conveyed into hospital? The following are the various methods which are at the disposal of the sick in the island of Zanzibar:—The sick person may ride into the town on a donkey. Again there is a conveyance commonly known as "the wheels." The history of this remarkable institution is that a member of the Universities' Mission, while in England, despatched to Zanzibar, with a view to the conveyance of sick persons into town, one of the hand ambulances of the St. John's Ambulance Association. In due course the ambulance arrived, and the stretcher was at once appropriated, as being all that could be desired for a *bier*, and the use of the wheels remained unknown. When the donor arrived, and the mistake was discovered, it was decided that it would be too gruesome to restore the bier to its original use, a kind of chair, after the manner of deck chairs, was extemporized, and fitted on to the wheels therefore and, in this original conveyance, close to the ground, so that he is

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)