

It is satisfactory to know that the Metropolitan Asylums' Board publish a list of Infirmaries in which the training satisfies their requirement, and that they will not appoint as charge nurses under the Board, any nurses trained in other Infirmaries. The Board requires that the Infirmaries placed upon their list shall train probationers for three years, and give them a certificate after examination, and, further, that the examination shall be conducted by an independent authority—a most excellent regulation. How many of our general hospitals could satisfy the Metropolitan Asylums' Board if it laid down the same rules with regard to accepting their nurses? One London training school at least certifies its nurses without examining them at all, and few, if any, hold an examination conducted by an independent examiner. "It is a consummation devoutly to be wished."

*London* publishes a letter from the Chairman of an Infirmary Visiting Committee, of one of the largest Boards of Guardians who does not wish his name mentioned, on the subject of the "Disappearing Workhouse Nurse." We rather think, however, this gentleman gives himself away when he mentions his acquaintance with an infirmary where the nurses' telegrams are opened. As a rule Matrons are scrupulous in respecting the confidential nature of telegrams, and no more think of breaking the seal of a telegram than that of a letter.

The writer of the letter must have been exceptionally unfortunate in his acquaintance with Matrons under the Poor Law as he considers that "what these Matrons desire is to have an Act of Parliament passed by which they can over-ride and trample on Guardians, medical officers, nurses, and in fact become autocrats, so that there shall be no bar to their power over their unfortunate sisters." Name! Name!

At a recent inquest on a child, says a contemporary, the mother stated that all her children had been down with the measles. She kept them warm and gave them saffron tea. The Coroner: Why did you give them saffron? Witness: because my mother gave it me when I had measles. The Coroner: And that was, I suppose, because your grandmother gave it to her. I can't understand you mothers giving your children saffron. It is an old washerwoman's tale. I suppose it was originally recommended by some quack, because it was the colour of measles spots. A Juryman: But saffron is the usual thing to give children for measles. The Coroner: Yes, but it's all nonsense. It reminds me of the old story told of one of the kings of England—I forget which—who was taken ill with scarlet fever. The Court physician ordered him to be placed in a bed, the

hangings and drapery of which were of scarlet. Strange to say the king recovered, and the lucky medical man was made a Baron and given much land. (Laughter.) A Juror: And the next one who tried it had his head chopped off, I suppose. (Renewed laughter.) The Coroner: History is silent on that point.

At a recent meeting of the Richmond Board of Guardians, a report was read from the Visiting Committee stating that night nurse Nancy Williams had been incapable of performing her duties on four occasions, and had been suspended, temporary assistance being obtained. It recommended that her services should be dispensed with. The Deputy Clerk read a letter from Nurse Williams desiring to resign the position with a month's notice, on the ground that she had been unjustly blamed. It was resolved that Nurse Williams' services should be dispensed with at once. How soon will she find another post, we wonder, "where the past will never be referred to"?

THE *Malvern Gazette* speaks warmly of the work done in Malvern Link by the district nurses. It says: "Personally we are in a position to speak of the effectual help which the nurses render in many homes where they teach the value of order, cleanliness, and sanitation. There are in fact few households, especially the poor, where the trained nurses have once visited, where they are not remembered with even more than a friendly feeling. The duties they are called upon to perform are, in many cases, of a trying and exacting character, but, ever alive to the sublime claims of suffering, they give most sympathetic attention to all to whom they are called upon to minister in hours of trial and sickness."

MRS. H. H. WILLS, and Miss McAdam are to be congratulated upon their action in urging upon the Axbridge Board of Guardians the necessity of providing their Infirmary Nurse with an assistant. The present nurse, who is uncertificated, had under her charge when the matter was discussed 12 men and 13 women in the sick wards, and one lying-in case. Of these about 20 patients were bedridden. She was responsible for the nursing night and day. The nurse expressed herself as satisfied with the present arrangement, but the Master strongly expressed the opinion that a second nurse was necessary. A case was instanced in which an inmate had been brought before the board charged with not obeying the Master's orders, which were that he should sit up with sick patients. In consequence of the disobedience, one of the inmates had died suddenly in bed. The Master also pointed out that, as the guardians know, the epileptic patients had been removed from the usual sick wards to another portion of the House, and only a night or two since

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