

out the dead. When she respectfully told the Matron that she objected to wear a stuff-dress in the wards, as it carried every smell from the patients, and that she should like to wear a washing dress, she (the Matron) told her that she was in bondage there; that was the only dress she would have, and if she refused to wear it she would have to leave the Infirmary." There can be no question that the nurse's request for washing dresses was reasonable, and indeed, necessary. She could not, without endangering the life of her patients, attend to the various cases in the same dress, and she would, therefore, have failed in her duty if she had not represented the facts to the Guardians, and, failing their support, if she had not resigned. In all well-ordered hospitals, the Committees at the present day recognize the paramount necessity of washing dresses for all members of the nursing staff, and this necessity is emphasized in the case of a small institution, where the nurse attends to cases of various natures. We hope the Barnsley Guardians will provide their new night nurse with washing uniform.

#### NURSE SWEATING.

WE observe in the Annual Report of the Chichester Infirmary, which was presented to the Governors of that institution at the recent Annual Meeting, that the private nursing branch has been "unusually successful, and the large profit of 300 guineas had been transferred to the general account." We have frequently commented in this journal upon the injustice of appropriating a large proportion of the earnings of private nurses for any other object, however intrinsically excellent. Medical men, whose reputation, quite as much as that of nurses, is made by their hospital connection, would not submit to such a docking of their incomes for a moment. The injustice is accentuated when, in addition to mulcting the nurses of their earnings, the public, as we have reason to believe is the case with the Chichester Infirmary, are not always supplied with nurses who have completed a three years' training, and thus obtained their certificates. In this case, therefore, the nurse is deprived of the training which she has a right to expect, she receives only the small salary of a nurse during her training, and the public pays for a partially trained nurse at the same rate that it would pay for a competent one, the institution pocketing the difference. It is, in our opinion, a matter of mere justice and honesty to pay to

private nurses the whole of their earnings after the expenses connected with the private nursing institution have been defrayed.

#### REGISTRATION OF PLUMBERS.

WE notice with satisfaction that the Bill for the Registration of Plumbers is being widely discussed, and it seems likely that before long such Registration may be an accomplished fact.

There can be no doubt that the passing of such a measure would be of great benefit, and of public importance. It is unquestionable that the condition of public health depends greatly upon the efficiency of the work done by plumbers, and that bad work on their part may mean serious illness, and even death. It is of great moment, therefore, that some test of efficiency should be imposed upon the British workman before we entrust the care of our drains to him.

The matter is one of further interest to nurses, because, if the necessity of the registration of plumbers is recognised, there can be no doubt that the registration of nurses is of more importance. Nurses are concerned with the care of the sick; they are frequently, in fact usually, in positions of great trust and responsibility, and in private houses they, as strangers, are admitted to close relations with the family of the sick person, and matters with which most intimate friends are frequently unacquainted come to their knowledge. The public, therefore, has a right to expect that its interests shall be safeguarded; and that, as far as may be, only persons suited by professional knowledge and personal character shall be supplied to them. But we find, on the contrary, that there is no such safeguard imposed, and the Matron of one of our largest training schools is able to state that in the institution, over the nursing department of which she presides, unsuitable probationers are generally got rid of in their first year. In almost every case she finds that the rejected probationer is taken on to the staff of a private nursing institution, and sent out to the public for the same fees as those obtained by thoroughly trained nurses. This is unfair in the highest degree to the public, and unfair to thoroughly qualified nurses, but, until some legal restriction is placed upon those who make a lucrative business of farming incompetent nurses, so long will this abuse continue. In the interests, therefore, of the public safety, the Registration of Trained Nurses is of even more importance than that of plumbers.

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