

tion. The Guardians of the Mile End Infirmary however have not yet communicated with us through their solicitors.

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We congratulate Mrs. Moser, a member of the Bradford Board of Guardians, upon her courage at its last meeting in proposing that no visitors from outside the workhouse be allowed to attend the dances held in the house. She said that she had seen enough to satisfy herself that the dances had led to abuse. She was as anxious as any one to lighten the duties of the nurses, but she believed the dances endangered the tone and the discipline of the institution.

A male member, who opposed the motion, said there had never been any scandal or misbehaviour resulting from the dances, and he had always been most careful to ask only people of good moral character to attend.

The motion, we regret to learn, was defeated.

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We are pleased to see that the local press is commenting on the scandal of these junkettings.

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THE question as to the number of beds which should be laid down as the standard as entitling an institution to term itself a training school for nurses, and its certificate as conferring upon its holder the right to rank as a trained nurse is receiving considerable attention, both on this side of the Atlantic and also from our American cousins. It is generally felt that the time has arrived for some definite decision on this important matter, and consequently it is being widely discussed, and it may be hoped that it will receive considerable attention at the International Nursing Conference next year.

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THE present standard accepted by the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, and by the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools, is that of 100 beds, but we imagine that in neither case is this decision considered as final. As Nursing Organization progresses, the number of beds which constitute an efficient training school is one of the points which must necessarily be considered in its various bearings, that is to say, from the point of view of responsibility to the public, justice to nurses, and the good of the Nursing profession, by which may be understood the "greatest good of the greatest number."

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THERE is no doubt that the large general hospitals, when efficiently organized and superintended, afford the ideal training ground. The work can be systematically arranged, the experience gained is wider than is possible in a smaller hospital, the reputation of the institution attracts a high class of probationers, and from the cream of these the ward sisters are subsequently drawn.

It is possible, therefore, to require and maintain a very high standard, and for all these reasons, the certificate of a large training school is justly considered as having a prestige which the smaller schools cannot hope to attain.

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A point of great importance in the ideal training school of many hundred beds is that the discipline of the nurses may attain to a perfection which it is difficult, if not impossible, to secure in the smaller schools, and discipline, it is every day more and more demonstrated, goes a long way in the making of the ideal nurse. But short of an ideal standard there are very many institutions where the training is admirable, and the discipline excellent. Are these to be excluded from recognition because they cannot attain to the highest standard, or is their work to be recognised as sound, and of value to the community, and their nurses as qualified to attend the public as private nurses?

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THE question, after all, is not entirely a numerical one. The class of cases treated by the institution must be taken into consideration. For instance, a comparatively small hospital, treating mainly acute and frequently changing cases, may prove a much better training ground than a much larger institution where the cases are mostly of a chronic nature. Then again, the class of nursing must be considered. In a hospital, for instance, where the proportion of nurses is one to every two or three patients, much better and more refined nursing can be taught than is possible where the nursing staff is in the proportion of one to every ten patients.

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It is obvious that if the standard of efficient training is to be based solely upon the number of beds in the training schools then our Poor Law Infirmarys will rank as the best training schools, whereas, with some honourable exceptions, the Poor Law Infirmarys are the very last places in which a first-class, or, indeed, an adequate, training is obtainable for the reason that they fail to allow a large enough proportion of nurses to patients to permit of that attention to detail being given which alone can make a first class nurse, and, further, the training in many of them is not organized on a modern basis, or, indeed, organized at all, and—equally important—the lack of discipline in many infirmarys is notorious, and is, indeed, the root of the trouble experienced by many Boards of Guardians in obtaining efficient nurses.

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Immeasurably superior to the training of institutions of this description, no matter how large the number of beds, is that of the well-organized small general hospitals. In some respects indeed they can "give points" to the

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