

for the special purpose of training nurses for such infirmaries."

THE *West London Advertiser* reports the following instructive conversation:—

The Chairman: We might tell the Runcorn Board that we have such an institution of our own.

Mr. Jeffery: I simply move no action.

The Chairman: I think we might be courteous, and tell them that we have—

Mr. Jeffery: But I am against the one in our establishment.

The Chairman: What!

Mr. Jeffery: I am, and always have been.

The Chairman: What! Against a training school?

Mr. Jeffery: Yes.

It was decided to take no action.

WE regret to observe that many Boards of Guardians are treating this letter with the same lack of courtesy, and allowing it to "lie on the table." Real trouble and difficulty are experienced by numberless Boards in obtaining nurses to attend to the sick inmates of workhouse wards and infirmaries, and those Boards which have organized a Nursing School in connection with a separate infirmary, might at least consider and advise others who have not yet progressed so far. The whole question of nursing under the Poor Law, will compel consideration from the Local Government Board at an early date. Guardians should place reliable data before their representatives in Parliament, and demand that attention be called to the matter in the House. We are aware that immense pressure was brought by the Hon. Officers of the Royal British Nurses Association and their friends to prevent an inquiry into the whole Nursing Question by a Parliamentary Commission, when the necessity for such action was pressed upon the leader in the House of Commons—but the policy of "hush" is never a wise one—and sooner or later the scandalous disorganisation, and in consequence the many abuses which exist in nursing under the Poor Law, especially in Ireland, must be investigated, considered, and improved.

INFORMATION has reached us from a reliable source that the so-called "revolt" of the nurses at the Camberwell Infirmary is non-existent. The real fact is that additional nurses are required, not because there have been numerous resignations but because the Infirmary is at present understaffed, as there is only one nurse to a ward of from twenty-five to twenty-eight beds, and nearly all the cases are acute. It is obvious, therefore, that further assistance is badly needed if the work is to be adequately performed.

At present the Nurses' quarters are far from satisfactory, but the Guardians, we are glad to know, have recognised the need for proper accom-

modation, and plans are at present being prepared for an ideal home for the staff. The guardians, in common with many other Boards, find a difficulty in obtaining good nurses, and many of those who are taken on trial prove unsatisfactory. It is the resignations of these unsuitable nurses which form the greater number. For instance, we hear that a newly appointed nurse desired to wear rings in the wards, and these being naturally prohibited, she has resigned.

Of eight resignations, this is one; then two nurses are leaving to be married, two have better appointments, one has taken up private nursing, two need a rest, and may re-apply, and yet another is going to a Hospital for further training.

WHAT are really needed, therefore, at the present time are assistant nurses to help those already over-worked. In the future, when the new home is built and the necessary accommodation provided, we hear, with much pleasure, that it is proposed to organize the nursing of the Camberwell Infirmary on the basis which has been found to work most satisfactorily in all well-organized schools, the wards being placed in charge of Sisters, with staff nurses and probationers working under them. The Infirmary is to be greatly enlarged, and while re-building and new building is going on, there will, of course, be some difficulty in housing the staff; hence the delay in increasing it. We hear with pleasure that the nursing staff appreciate these difficulties, and are working hard in order to cope with the present pressure. One essential improvement we hope will be made when the new infirmary is opened, and that is that a trained Matron will be appointed. A Medical Superintendent, however energetic, is unfairly handicapped if he has to supervise details of nursing and of discipline, which should be dealt with by the Matron. Also a Matron of an Infirmary for the sick, who is not a trained nurse, is not capable of discharging the work required of her. She should, without doubt, be the best nurse in the building, as well as possessing the other many necessary qualifications of a Matron. We think that when this reform is made the Guardians will find less difficulty in obtaining thoroughly qualified nurses. Well trained nurses naturally object to working under an untrained superintendent.

THE fact that two healthy children have been notified as suffering from scarlet fever, and sent to the Park Fever Hospital, with a certificate from a medical man who has never seen them, has caused considerable astonishment and indignation. The children belong to the working classes, and their mother doubtless will be unable to obtain substantial compensation for this treatment. We cannot refrain from wondering what would happen if the children of wealthy parents were treated in this manner.

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