

that this recommendation was opposed by Dr. Gilchrist, whose amendment, however, to refer the matter back for reconsideration was defeated by 22 votes to 13.

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WE have, in a former issue, touched upon the disorganized condition of nursing at the Scarborough Infirmary, which has resulted in the resignation of the majority of the nursing staff; and when we learn that at a recent meeting of the Guardians Mr. N. Maley said: "It was pleasant to find that the master and matron (untrained) would have a little more control over the nurses than they had had in the past," the reason for the friction is not far to seek.

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WE predict that the satisfaction of Mr. N. Maley will be short-lived, especially when we learn that in drawing up the new regulations for the nursing staff "the sub-Committee had had the advantage of a draft submitted by the master" of the Workhouse!

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THESE new regulations provide "that the staff shall be divided into two day and two night nurses. The Superintendent Nurse shall have the entire charge of the sick wards and nurses, under the direction of the medical officer as to all medical requirements, and of the master and matron as to all other requirements. The Superintendent and other nurses must receive visitors only in their hours off duty, and exceptional visits must have permission from the master or matron. The time table will be as follows:—Day nurses.—On duty, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Alternate Sundays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., and 1 to 9.30 p.m. Off duty, one afternoon per week, 2 to 6 p.m. Sundays (alternate), 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 6 to 10 p.m. Recreation every week day, 8 to 10 p.m. Night nurses.—On duty, 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. Sundays, 9.30 p.m. to 8 a.m. Off duty, one whole day when changing duty. Night duty will be for a period of one and two months alternately. The Superintendent Nurse and all other officers in the hospital shall (except as to the treatment of patients for which they are responsible to the medical officer) at all times be amenable to the master and matron of the Workhouse, and any appeal from their orders must be made to the Union Clerk in writing, who shall communicate the same to the House Committee."

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It will be gathered from the preceding time table that the nurses are required to be on duty for twelve hours daily, that they get no weekly half-holiday out of seven days' labour, that *once a week* in the winter months they are permitted off duty by *daylight*, and that they are expected,

after a twelve hours' day, to "recreate from 8 to 10 p.m.," during which time we presume they will be provided with supper! Once in *three weeks* these white slaves are to be permitted to be off duty on Sunday from 10 a.m., *having, however, been on duty from 8, in order to do a morning's work before they go!* The whole scheme is scandalous, and if the Workhouse Master is to organise the nursing arrangements with entire disregard of the health of the nursing staff, we hope that the mismanagement of the nursing department at the Scarborough Infirmary will be enquired into, and that speedily by the rightful authority from the Local Government Board. The late Superintendent Nurse, Miss Barralette, would make a valuable witness, to judge by facts placed before us in our editorial capacity.

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A CORRESPONDENT writes: "Nothing can demonstrate more distinctly the necessity for nurses insisting upon some professional standard of education than the case brought by a Bristol nurse against a doctor a short time ago, and your editorial on the principle embodied in this question was read by us all (a nursing staff) with much interest and appreciation. If it were not for the support given to the subject of professional status and justice for nurses in your paper, we should look in vain for one encouraging word in the press; but although we individual nurses cannot do much to help ourselves, owing to our dependence, still we do appreciate the manner in which you fight our cause, and we sympathise most deeply with all you have had to suffer of late years for conscience sake. Every day, however, brings us nearer to the time in which, as enfranchised women, we shall have power to help ourselves, but I have very little faith in any substantial reforms being effected or progress made until we have the Parliamentary vote. Indeed, it is very difficult not to feel that all the energy and devotion which has been expended in the editorship of our NURSING RECORD is not being thrown away—so hopeless do nursing matters appear in this country—but that we know no good and earnest work is ever thrown away, one might despair."

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WE greatly value such expressions of appreciation upon the part of our readers, and it may interest the writer to know that we heard Mrs. Neill—of New Zealand, who is now in England, and who has so kindly consented to read the Opening Paper at the Nursing Session of the Women's Congress—express the opinion a few days ago that nurses in England must obtain the vote before they will be in a position to effect professional reform, and, as we know, Mrs. Neill speaks with authority as an enfranchised woman.

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