

the Queen is, owing largely to her own personality, one of the most glorious in English history, inconsistently, but loudly, deny to her women subjects the right to any voice in national affairs. They subject them to taxation without representation, a principle commonly held to be tyrannous where men are concerned, and class them with incarcerated criminals, lunatics, and paupers. It is, indeed, amazing that courteous and well-educated gentlemen should adopt such an outrageous position to women, and one which can scarcely be considered complimentary by their own mothers and wives.

THE question as to whether smoking and card-playing should be encouraged in the hospital was recently discussed at the Annual Meeting of the Governors of the Hunts County Hospital. One Governor said that he saw no reason why a patient should not be allowed to smoke when it could be done without discomfort to other patients and playing cards might be a most desirable recreation. Another opposed the suggestion unless separate arrangements could be made for separate rooms for smoking. He also was of opinion that card playing should be discountenanced. Ultimately the Governors decided to permit both these amusements.

WE are certainly of opinion that, except for convalescent patients, in a separate day-room, smoking should not be permitted. In the ward of a general hospital there are, as a rule, always some acute cases to whom a smoky atmosphere would be an annoyance, and hospital wards being primarily for the care of the sick, the interests of convalescents must take the second place. Smoking in bed is always attended with a certain amount of risk, and in institutions where this habit is permitted the attention of fire insurance companies should, we think, be directed to the fact. With regard to card playing, this is also better confined to the day-room, as it also is out of place in a ward of acutely ill patients.

WE commend the attitude adopted by Mr. R. Smyllie, the editor of the *Sligo Independent*, at a recent meeting of the Sligo Board of Guardians. Mr. Smyllie incurred the displeasure of the Nationalist Guardians, owing to his comments upon the action of the nuns in the workhouse in refusing to permit a number of imbeciles to return to the quarters from which they had been temporarily removed. It would appear that there is much to be said for the views expressed by the *Sligo Independent*, as the Local Government Board Inspector had stated that the temporary accommodation provided for these harmless imbeciles was altogether unsuitable, twelve imbeciles being packed into a room only intended

for four persons, the consequence being that they were lying like rabbits on the floor, and packed like herrings. This official also stated that the nuns absolutely refused to allow the imbeciles back to their own quarters from which they had been temporarily removed to make room for fever patients. For commenting on this matter, the Nationalist Guardians decided to exclude the representative of the *Sligo Independent* from their meetings.

IT appears to us extraordinary that the nuns should have the power to prevent the return of these imbeciles to their own quarters. This is a matter which we should have imagined would be decided by the medical authorities, but, in any case, it is surely unjustifiable to exclude a representative of the press from a public meeting because he has made a comment unpalatable to some of the Guardians. Mr. Smyllie apparently took this view and refused to retire when asked to do so. The porter was then desired to remove him by force. This was, however, a bigger task than he could accomplish, so he disappeared to return shortly with a reinforcement of two able-bodied men. Mr. Smyllie now drew the attention of a Justice of the Peace who was present, to the fact that it was his duty to prevent any assault being committed, causing that gentleman to seize his hat and make for the door. Then uprose another Guardian, and said it was against the spirit of any Irish gentleman to ask three men to attack one. If any one Guardian thought he could remove Mr. Smyllie, let him do it.

THEN it was suggested that the police should be sent for, but this was declared to be useless, as they would only preserve the peace, and Mr. Smyllie was quite peaceable.

FINALLY, the meeting was adjourned without any business being transacted, in order that a legal opinion on the situation might be obtained. Meanwhile, Mr. Smyllie scored a victory, being the last man to leave the Board room.

IF the press is to be boycotted because it dares to express an independent opinion in relation to nursing matters, it will be even more difficult than it is at present to obtain reform when abuses occur. We are, therefore, indebted to the spirited editor of our contemporary for insisting upon his rights in the case related.

By a printer's error, the number of marks accredited to Miss Emily Burke, in the examination of the Dublin Metropolitan Technical School for Nurses was, in a recent issue, stated to be 226. The number should have been 266 out of a possible 300.

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