

had not received general training. In any case, womankind may be proud of her.

At the meeting of the Newton Abbot Guardians held last week, the report of the Visiting Committee, dealing with the position of the nursing staff, and the difficulty of obtaining trained nurses, was considered. The report stated that the dearth of nurses was, no doubt, due to the fact that the demand for their services was greater than the supply. It suggested that the difficulty of obtaining nurses in other institutions has been lessened by increased and progressive salaries, separate nursing homes, generous treatment of the staff, and the training of probationers. They also suggested that the Board should subscribe to a lending library for the benefit of the nurses when off duty.

DR. LEY agreed with the report so far as it went, but was of opinion that the Committee had missed the crux of the matter, which was that the Local Government Board insisted upon their having trained nurses, and hospital nurses would never stay in the house, it was so monotonous and miserable. He should like to see a strong recommendation to the Local Government Board that Unions with 100 beds and a trained Superintendent, should be allowed to train their own probationers.

BUT why train probationers to endure monotony and misery? We should advise the Guardians to act on the report of the Visiting Committee and relieve these conditions. At present the nurses' rooms are so close to the wards that they are obliged to keep very quiet when off duty, and are even stopped when they laugh. The erection of a suitable Nurses' Home would do much to lessen the unpopularity of this infirmary with nurses.

AN infectious hospital, which the Sanitary Committee are anxious to make as perfect as they can afford to make it, and yet "not a single penny provision for trained nursing." Truly a most extraordinary condition of things, yet such are the facts in relation to the infectious hospital at Bury St. Edmund's, as revealed at the last meeting of the Town Council. Moreover, the hospital does not contain a trained nurse at all, as a rule, the officers being a "Matron," and caretaker, who are man and wife and receive £50 a year for their joint services. When an infectious case occurs, therefore, a nurse has to be specially engaged. Surely the inhabitants of Bury, who send their relatives to the infectious hospital, have a right to expect that they shall at once receive the necessary nursing care. In a case of diph-

theria, for instance, a fatal result might easily ensue while the skilled nurse was being obtained. Again, it was stated that "in light cases" the Matron might take charge, so that the Town Council assume the responsibility of removing cases of infectious disease from their own homes and, at the same time, do not in all cases provide them with proper nursing.

WE are glad to note that more than one member of the Town Council urged that the Matron should be an accomplished nurse. In addition to the fact that no one else should be allowed to be responsible for the nursing of the sick, we must point out that it is an expensive way of providing the nursing to engage a nurse at £2 2s. od. a week, as the Council seem to have done.

IT is startling to find a medical man supporting the present plan, yet, Dr. Gibbon said that they had not very much exceeded the amount which used to be spent for a most inefficient Matron, who was supposed to be a nurse but was not, whilst her husband was a porter, and in addition to what was paid them as wages they had constantly two charwomen to act as assistant nurses, who got either 12s. or 16s. a week each, which meant £20 or £30 a year wages for them. Under the present arrangement they had a Matron and her husband for £50 a year, and a trained nurse when necessary, and he thought the probability was that at the end of a few years the wages would not exceed those paid in former years, and certainly the nursing was very much better.

WE would suggest that to pay £20 or £30 a year to charwomen to act as assistant nurses is an extravagant item. For the latter sum the services of a certificated nurse could certainly be secured all the year round. We hope that the counsels of those who desire to place a trained nurse in charge as Matron will prevail. Of this we are quite certain that, until this essential reform is made, the hospital will not be "as perfect as the Town Council can afford to make it."

MISS VICTORIA TULIS, a nurse in one of the Manila hospitals, writes thus to friends in Kansas:—"I am in love with Manila. We are living in the late Admiral Montojo's residence. It is simply grand. The nurses have fixed up this place beautifully. Some of the fine mahogany furniture is still in the house, and used in our living rooms and reception hall. It is all inlaid with pearl, and the carving is beautiful. We have a Roman bathtub; it is big enough for four or five to bathe in at once, and we sometimes do; at least, two of us did last night. There are over a hundred nurses here."

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