

things in workhouse nursing and, moreover, they probably take their cue from the Guardians and their old time ideas.

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It may be imagined that the Superintendent Nurse's post has been anything but a bed of roses for the past year, and at their last meeting, to quote from the *West Sussex Gazette's* report, "The Board afterwards went into committee to consider a report on the nursing arrangements of the house, the outcome of which was the passing of a resolution calling on the Superintendent Nurse to resign her appointment." Our readers will be surprised to learn that this resolution was passed, although no copy of the report, from the Nursing Committee, presumably, had been furnished to the Superintendent Nurse for her observations thereon. Neither had she the faintest idea of any such step being contemplated, as no complaints had been made to or of her or her work, nor has she, during the whole time she has been in their employ, ever been before the Board on any charges or complaints. In fact, the only intimation the Superintendent Nurse has had was the receipt, from the Clerk, of the Board's resolution.

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Of course, no self-respecting nurse could tamely submit to such an unwarrantable, un-English, and withal so unjust a proceeding without making a strong effort to vindicate herself and her position, and we understand Miss Rogers has promptly appealed to the Local Government Board, without whose permission the Guardians cannot dismiss her. We shall watch the development of this contest with a great deal of interest; and the sympathy of the nursing world will be undoubtedly extended to Miss Rogers in her fight with Bumbledom.

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THERE has been some drastic criticism in the home and Indian press on the management of the nursing department of the General Hospital at Madras. We are informed that the nursing staff do not appreciate the championship of "cantankerous people." They argue with some sense that things can't be very bad as "not one nurse on the permanent staff has left this year." The only grievance that nurses at the Hospital have at the present time is that the work is *very* hard—in fact, impossible to do thoroughly; and when their numbers are compared with that of the patients, this is not to be wondered at—30 nurses for 500 patients for day and night duty!! No night superintendent, no operation theatre nurses, and no relieving nurses for those off duty through sickness or otherwise.

THE Madras Government have no more loyal, hardworking and devoted servants than the nursing staff of this hospital. Surely it is for want of thought that the staff has not been increased as the hospital has been enlarged, and one nurse to every ten patients is not an extravagant demand. The nurses do not wish to grumble, and say Government *will* increase their number before long. The sooner the better for the sake of all concerned.

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THE novel sight of nurses acting the part of firemen was witnessed about 3 a.m. one morning last week, when a fire broke out at 13, Goldsmith Row, a shop opposite to the North-Eastern Hospital for Children, in Hackney Road, Shoreditch. Some time before the engines arrived on the scene the hospital nurses, who are regularly drilled in the use of fire appliances, were able, with the assistance of the three resident doctors, to bring four powerful hoses to bear on the building, the flames from which reached half across the narrow street. Their prompt action undoubtedly saved the adjoining property, and on the arrival of the brigade the flames were quickly subdued, though not before the premises were gutted.

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At the meeting of the Croydon Guardians on Tuesday, the following letter was read from the Local Government Board, dated November 12th:—

"The Board are not in possession of sufficient information to enable them to express any opinion as to the course adopted by the Guardians, but in the interests of the administration of the Infirmary, they cannot but regret the state of things indicated by the correspondence which has taken place on the subject. The arrangements for the supervision of the nursing staff and nursing duties, as well as for the training of probationers, are matters of much importance, and in this connection the Board would specially direct the Guardians attention to the petition signed by twenty-two nurses of the infirmary, a copy of which was enclosed in the matron's communication to the Board, dated the 25th September last. The Board would be glad to be informed of the result of the further consideration of the whole subject by the Guardians."

Mr. Shirley moved that this letter be referred to the Infirmary Committee. He asked whether the Guardians had been furnished with a copy of the nurses' petition. The Chairman replied they had not. Mr. Morland thought the Committee should have the petition before them when considering the matter. It was decided to ask the Infirmary Committee to reconsider the whole question and to report.

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THE petition referred to set forth that certificates without the Matron's signature were of no value whatever in the nursing profession. We have referred to this in another column.

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