

various reasons it was not forthcoming. She also complained to the Committee about the lack of necessary medicines, etc., and at their request she filled up a paper to be sent to Mr. Laphorne.—Mr. Prince pointed out that this list was not dated, but Mr. Laphorne's letter, in which he agreed that the things mentioned were necessary for the Infirmary, was dated December 12th, 1899.

“NURSES QUARRELLING AND SWEARING.”

Witness, continuing, said she had never received these things. After the receipt of Mr. Laphorne's letter she had another interview with the Committee. The Committee drew her attention to the sum, £7 odd, expressing the opinion that it was a lot of money, and they handed the list back to her and asked if she could cut it down. With the exception of some boracic acid and some strappings, none of the things she asked for in this list had ever been supplied, and she still felt the inconvenience and want of them. In fact, she had to use her own scissors, forceps, and syringes. She had also bought a supply of corks and labels with her own money, as she did not like to have the medicines unlabelled. Miss Rogers referred to several cases in detail as tending to show that sick patients had been unduly kept either in the Workhouse or receiving wards, and that patients under her charge had been allowed to leave the House without her being consulted. Some seven or eight months after she came to East Preston, Mr. Davy paid a visit to the Infirmary, and she afterwards read in the papers that the condition of the nursing had very much improved. When she came there the discipline was very bad. It was no uncommon thing to find the nurses quarrelling and swearing, and even throwing clothing at each other. She also considered the staff was inadequate, and on her speaking to the Nursing Committee they appointed one additional nurse. They had also since appointed a ward woman, but she did not consider the staff to be sufficient even now.

Twelve months ago last Christmas Day no dinner was provided for those who were too ill to eat the ordinary Christmas fare, and it was only after considerable difficulty that witness got two quarts of milk from the Matron for them. The practice was for the meals to be served out in the House, and she had complained of the nurses having to go and wait while the meat was carved for them. Since then a little alteration had taken place, and the vegetables were now brought to the Infirmary in dishes, but no covers were provided. She had not seen a really hot dinner served in the Infirmary since she had been there.—Questioned as to the way in which she had been supported by the Master and Matron since she had been there, Miss Rogers said she had not

been given any position at all. Inmates and others were sent to do work in the Infirmary without any reference to witness, and this, naturally, had not been conducive to the efficient carrying on of the Infirmary by her. During the time she had been there she had confined her attention exclusively to the Infirmary, and had never sought to interfere with the working of any other part of the House. They had at first what they called a method of economy with reference to the sheets, by which certain of the sheets, after being used both at the top and bottom, were made to do a third time for dirty cases; but she had put a stop to this as soon as possible.—Questioned about Nurse Byrne, Miss Rogers said she suffered a good deal from her head, and when she had a serious case, or any extra work, she often “lost her head.” Witness had had occasion to complain of her want of care in attending to her patients and carrying out her duties, and she had been most insolent. On the 6th November last witness was requested to submit her resignation, but neither the Guardians nor the Nursing Committee had ever made any complaint with reference to her administration of the Infirmary.

CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. BOXALL.

It was by her consent that Mr. Prince asked the Board to formulate what complaints, if any, they had to make against her; she was still unconscious of having acted in any way so as to justify the Board in taking the steps they had; and it was because of this that she had declined to send in her resignation. A few days ago the Master refused to let an inmate named Cager go with witness to see her solicitor's representative. Miss Rogers said she complained that she had been hampered in her duties by the Matron; she complained of the insolence of Nurse Byrne and other persons; and she also accused the Nursing Committee of having vented on her their annoyance at having to appoint her by direction of the Local Government Board as Superintendent Nurse; but she did not complain of the Medical Officer. She did not know that there had been any friction between her and the other officials, but she believed they had tried to prevent her from carrying out her duties.

THE MEDICAL OFFICER'S VIEWS.

Mr. Charles A. Laphorne, Medical Officer to the Workhouse, who was next called, and examined by Mr. Boxall, deposed that, having heard the complaints and suggestions of the Superintendent Nurse, in his opinion the Nursing Committee had given attention to her reasonable requests as far as they could. He also considered the present nursing staff to be quite adequate, although, at some times, more help might be given them in the way of the hard work, like scrubbing. It was, however, very

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