

Annotations.

THE SCAPE GOAT.

The decision of the Local Government Board that Miss Rogers, the Superintendent Nurse at the East Preston Workhouse Infirmary should be desired to place her resignation in the hands of the Guardians is one which will have a prejudicial effect upon the nursing in workhouse wards all over the country, for it must be remembered that if the standard of nursing is lowered the patients inevitably are the sufferers, and we have no hesitation in saying that the action of the Local Government Board with regard to Miss Rogers is calculated to have this effect.

We have in previous issues devoted considerable space to recording the details of this case because, being a test one, we felt it to be of great importance to all nurses working under the Poor Law. It will be remembered that neither in the first instance, when the Guardians requested Miss Rogers to resign, nor during the Local Government Board inquiry, was anything prejudicial to her professional or personal character brought forward. She emerges from this searching test unscathed, and even the Guardians, at the enquiry, said that they made no charge, much less complaint, against her. The ground on which her resignation was desired was that there was friction in the workhouse, and that for this reason Miss Rogers' removal was expedient. Superintendent Nurses therefore will gather this lesson from the East Preston Enquiry, that if, in the interests of the sick, and in the effort to obtain what is right for their patients, they arouse antagonism, in ignorant workhouse officials, and in Guardians who frequently have not even a rudimentary idea of nursing requirements, they will receive no support from the controlling authority, and may even be required to quit their posts, with no certainty of obtaining others under the Local Government Board, whose sanction is necessary to all appointments. The effect will be two fold. First, women inspired with the desire of performing their duty to the sick will hesitate to apply for appointments in workhouse wards, secondly, such appointments will consequently be increasingly filled by a stamp of nurse who is willing to acquiesce in any abuse which she may find rampant, and to take the easy course of going with the stream rather than of struggling against it.

Miss Rogers' case is specially hard, because although the Local Government Board have taken from her her means of livelihood, and made it most difficult for her to obtain another professional appointment, they even decline to direct the Guardians to return her the sum which she has paid into their Superannuation Fund, and the reply of the Guardians to a request for this small measure of justice is that they have no power to comply with it.

THE KING AND CONSUMPTION.

The King who has consented to act as President of the coming Congress on Tuberculosis to be held in London, in July next, and at which such eminent speakers as Professors Koch, Bronardel, and McFadyean, will deliver addresses, is showing himself keenly alive to the importance of this subject, and to the necessity for the eradication of a disease which works havoc in many British homes. During his recent visit to Germany his Majesty paid a visit to the Sanatorium for Consumptives at Falkenstein, and inspected every department, down to the kitchens. He was specially interested in the verandahs, where, even in the depth of winter the patients remain in the open air from eight in the morning till ten at night, and also examined through a microscope the tuberculosis bacillus. His Majesty also visited a similar institution at Ruppertsshain.

DEATH IN THE TEA-POT.

No class of the community drink more tea than nurses, and if the quality used is pure, it apparently is not so injurious as alarmists would have us believe. But according to Mr. Henry Hobhouse a new danger lurks in the cup that cheers without inebriating. This gentleman has drawn the attention of Parliament to the fresh peril. It appears that quantities of inferior Ceylon and other teas alleged to contain microbial products dangerous to health are being sold in bond in London at prices ranging below 4d. per lb.; and Mr. Hobhouse wants to know if the customs officers have taken and analysed any samples of such teas, and with what results; and if the Government will consent to an inquiry into the best methods of checking the sale of such unwholesome teas?

The adulteration of food is a great national danger to a "spoonfed" nation such as we are, and, if we can't take a cup of tea in safety, nurses will agree with us that life will hardly be worth living.

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