

Workhouse they were now acting upon the proper principle; he knew no other Boards of Guardians that were. For the last couple of years Belfast was recognised as a training school, and their nurses were employed all over Ireland as trained nurses. They were making their nursing staff up to the standard that would be recognised in any well ordered hospital.

Mr. Agnew, Local Government Board Inspector, in reply to Mr. Ronan, K.C., said that in 1893 he called attention to the fact that there was no night nurse in the Armagh Workhouse. In January, 1894, an inquest was held on the body of an inmate. In that year witness reported that there was only one paid nurse for 60 patients and 23 female lunatics. He discovered that the meat supplies for the week were supplied at the same time and put in pickle. After that an arrangement was made by which the meat should be delivered twice a week and supplied fresh to the patients. In 1895 the Local Government Board sent a recommendation that a night nurse should be appointed, and that night nurse was not appointed until 1898. On February 21st, 1895, he reported of the Armagh Workhouse Infirmary that there was only one nurse for 64 patients and 19 female lunatics. There was no night nurse, and in cases of grave illness or cases in which death was imminent some inmate was told off to attend on the sufferer.

Mr. Agnew further identified reports made by him on the state of the Armagh Workhouse Infirmary between 1896 and 1898. In the former year he found 114 in the house, of whom 43 were classed as lunatics. The infirmary patients were 67, and 27 lunatics, under charge of two paid nurses—a head nurse and probationer. The male lunatics (16) were under the charge of a paid wardmaster. There was a total absence of closet accommodation, and a night nurse was required for the sick. In 1898 there were 56 patients, and 27 lunatics in the infirmary. The nursing staff was the same as on the last report, assisted by four pauper attendants, who ate and slept in the infirmary wards. Three of these were females, two of whom had illegitimate children, while the third suffered from a loathsome disease. In September the same year there were 94 patients, 44 of whom were lunatics. Some of the women in the hospital objected to being attended by the pauper attendants already referred to.

Can you tell whether the nursing and Infirmary staff in Armagh Hospital was sufficient? It was not.

And did the Local Government Board continuously and repeatedly endeavour to have it increased? Yes, and without avail.

Lord Chief Justice: Would a probationer nurse

have been sufficient for the number of patients when Miss Kennedy was there? In my opinion it would not. Speaking generally, the same state of matters exist in almost all the Northern Unions. There was a continuous effort by the Local Government Board to increase the nursing staff and attendants. In Ballycastle the same state of matters exists; there is no night nurse, and when a vacancy occurred the Local Government Board had to issue an ultimatum to the guardians threatening to put paid officers in charge of the union if a competent trained nurse were not appointed. Larne was another notorious place where women of doubtful character were placed in the sick wards.

Lord Chief Justice: I believe, practically the only healthy women you get there available are women of that class? Well, that is the general rule. In Banbridge the Local Government Board were three years pressing before a night nurse was appointed.

Is it necessary the Local Government Board should have power to appoint proper attendants in these places? I have not the slightest doubt they should, because it is a constant uphill struggle to get the Guardians to make these appointments.

Lord Justice FitzGibbon: Would you recognise as a training for a nurse mere service in one of these infirmary hospitals? That, in my opinion, depends upon the workhouse hospitals.

Cross-examined by Serjeant Dodd: It was part of the universal practice up to recent years that paupers in workhouses attended in the hospitals, and that was done with the knowledge of the Local Government Board, as in England.

After the order was made repealing that was it disobeyed in Armagh Union? It is disobeyed at this moment. I have reported on pauper attendants certainly on the male side of the infirmary. The average salary of a trained nurse is £40, and that of a probationer from £10 to £16. There were no facilities in the fever hospital at the time the appointment was first required. No nurse would go to that hospital without a good salary, it was in such an unsanitary condition. It was so bad that even *Truth* took up its sanitary condition.

And the controversy is whether it is to be a trained nurse at £40 or £14? Yes.

Mr. W. L. Micks, a member of the Local Government Board, said he was an Inspector of the Board from 1888 to 1898. Since that time there had been great difficulty to appoint a proper staff. In twenty unions of which he had charge there was not a single trained nurse. He did not attribute inhumanity to any board. The question was growing up to this time, and in most cases it was refused because the importance of the matter was not known, and from a desire to save the rates.

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