

Nurse Greenham also went to South Africa as an Army Nurse, in which connection she has done such good service that she has been awarded the Royal Red Cross.

Lord Sandhurst has been elected Chairman of the Middlesex Hospital—a post he held before going to India. As this nobleman was chairman of the Select Committee of the House of Lords to enquire into the management of the Metropolitan Hospitals in 1891, he must have gained an instructive insight into their condition. Lord Sandhurst is progressive, and we hope that he will look carefully into the nursing department at Middlesex Hospital, as it is now one of the most unprogressive schools in the kingdom. The theoretical teaching of the nurses is most elementary, certificates can be bought after a few months' training by Lady Pupils, and we cannot learn that the regular Probationers are subjected to any examination before they are certificated. Middlesex badly wants bringing up to date in nursing matters.

At the last meeting of the Croydon Board of Guardians, a previous resolution, under which probationers receive no salary during their first year of service, was rescinded, and a resolution adopted sanctioning the payment of probationers, who have passed satisfactorily through their three months' trial, at the rate of £6 per annum, with uniform. Mr. Densham, who proposed the resolution, said that they had found a very great difficulty in obtaining nurses, and those they had obtained were not of the class they would like to have. We doubt if even the step now taken by the Croydon Guardians will bring them applications from the most desirable class of probationers who realise that it is not cash paid down, but the efficient organisation of a nursing school which is of the first importance to them.

It is regrettable that the wealthy city of Birmingham supports its District Nursing Society so badly that the subscriptions are far short of expenditure, and the Committee are unable to contemplate opening another Home which is urgently needed. Surely the citizens of prosperous Birmingham should wipe out this reproach. Many of them could do so singly by signing cheques which they would never miss.

At the Annual Meeting of the Bristol Nurses' Institution and Nursing Home the Secretary, Miss Morton, presented a very satisfactory report of the year's work. We are glad to note that the accounts of the Institute and of the Nursing Home are kept distinct, and that in addition to their salaries, £159 2s. 6d. was paid in percentages to

the private nurses, as the Committee wish that they should receive as much of their earnings as is compatible with keeping up a thoroughly comfortable home for them. As a profit had also been made by the Nursing Home, the Committee proposed to distribute the sum of £10 amongst the nurses in addition to the usual bonus. They thought that the nurses who had done such good work should be participators in the prosperity of the Home. This is a sound and just principle.

At a meeting of the Guardians of the St. George's Union a letter was received from a nurse who had been called upon to resign owing to her rudeness to the Matron. The nurse pointed out that while the Board had eliminated from the testimonial first given to her the remark originally inserted that she was unable to control her temper, the space in the testimonial relating to her conduct had now been left blank, and this made it exceedingly difficult for her to obtain another post. She asked the Board to fill in the space.

It was proposed and seconded that the word "good" be inserted in the vacant space, but a member of the Board pointed out that discipline would be at an end if they gave way in this manner. On being put to the vote, the resolution was lost by the casting vote of the chairman.

At a recent meeting of the Chelmsford Guardians a letter was considered from the Local Government Board, enclosing extracts from a letter from Mr. Lunney, one of the Guardians, as to the Nursing Staff of their Infirmary. The letter stated that on January 7th there were in the Infirmary 125 patients, nearly all of them being very old and infirm, and many of them being unable to leave their beds without assistance. The late Inspector, Mr. Bagenal, and the present Inspector, Captain Hervey, had spoken very strongly about the paucity of nurses; and Captain Hervey had strongly recommended the Guardians to appoint a second night nurse. There were three nurses on duty during the day and one at night. The Infirmary, comprised four blocks of buildings, divided into 18 wards, so that it was impossible for one nurse to do justice to all who constantly required her services.

The Rev. E. P. Gibson considered that Captain Hervey was the greatest enemy the rate-payers had got. His one idea seemed to be to go round recommending Boards to spend other people's money. It is an open question who is the greatest enemy of the indigent sick of Chelmsford, but in our view it would be more in accordance with the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)