

the kindness and sympathy of the nurses, who never spoke a single word of religion, but who carried the spirit of Christ with them, to lead a better life.

As a result of the official enquiry recently conducted by the Local Government Board's inspectors, Mr. Bircham and Dr. Fuller, "into the circumstances connected with the treatment in the Workhouse of the Cardiff Union of the infant C. B. Edgehill," the Board, while censuring two was, as the result of the guardians' inquiry, requested to send in her resignation—from blame in the matter. It is regrettable that, notwithstanding this finding on the part of the Local Government Board, the Chairman of the Cardiff Guardians publicly expressed his disagreement with it, and while endeavouring to exonerate the medical officer, still expressed his belief that the nurse was not free from blame.

The *Daily Chronicle* relates an ingenious method adopted by a hostess for the purpose of persuading her daughters and their friends to submit to vaccination. Mrs. Blank—at home—Saturday, March 15th—nine o'clock—dancing and vaccination, so ran the invitation. During the first figure of the cotillon the dancers drew lots for turns. The doctor put in an appearance at midnight, and his part in the evening's proceedings was finished by one, then came supper, and afterwards more dancing. After that there was no more dancing for some time to all concerned, but the memories of the pleasures of the vaccination dance doubtless consoled them during the days which followed.

The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, being responsible for the proper carrying out of the Pharmacy Act and the safeguarding of the public in the dispensing of medicines in Ireland, have issued a memorandum in which they "beg to draw the attention of the boards of all hospitals to the importance of having all compounding and dispensing of medicines carried on by duly qualified Pharmaceutical Chemists, or Licentiates of the Apothecaries' Hall.

"The Council regret to know that the practice exists in many hospitals of having medicines compounded by students, nurses, and other unqualified persons, and that regrettable accidents have been the result.

"The Council would also point out the extreme danger which follows the practice of supplying poisonous liniments and other medicines for external use, containing virulent poisons, in whis-

key, porter, mineral water, and other beverage bottles by hospital and public dispensaries, and, as such a practice is a danger to the public health, the Council trust that steps may be taken to arrange for the use of special poison bottles."

The warning is a necessary one, as regards nurses, for very few have any education in dispensing, and it is unfair both to nurses to require them to perform responsible duties for which they have no qualification, and to the patients of public institutions who have a right to expect skilled persons to be employed in the various departments. The practice alluded to of supplying poisonous liniments and lotions in beverage bottles is so manifestly reprehensible and dangerous that it is almost inconceivable that it should be widely practised.

"I know all about it nurse, you see I've had seven myself"—thus the friendly neighbour while a case of midwifery is in progress. The nurse may be forgiven if she has her own opinions on the subject. That the friendly neighbour knows all about the "pain and peril" of child-birth, she does not for a moment doubt. In the same way the patient who has had a limb removed knows more of the subsequent pain and discomfort than either the medical man or nurse in attendance, but who, on this account, would consider this fact a qualification for either the treatment or the care of other amputation cases?

The patient neither knows, nor is expected to know, anything of the scientific aspect of his own case, yet upon strict obedience to scientific laws the successful treatment and nursing of the patient depends. These laws must be studied intelligently and closely, skill in putting them into effect can only be attained by prolonged practice, and the patient unreservedly places himself in the hands of those who have so studied them, rather than in the hands of one who has undergone a similar operation, because he knows that his safety lies in so doing.

Why then should the woman who has had a child be supposed to be qualified by this fact for the care of other maternity cases? Granted that child-bearing is originally a natural, while the removal of a limb is an unnatural process, yet in these days of hyper-civilization it can scarcely be reckoned as an entirely natural proceeding, and even so the mother during its course is so overburdened with her own discomfort that she is not in a position to consider it from any other aspect, while in many instances she is under the influence

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