

mittee was considered, and it was decided to lay the proposals made before the Local Government Board. Subsequently the Local Government Board notified to the Guardians that they assent generally to the proposals of the Guardians of the Parish of St. John, Hampstead, in regard to the future nursing arrangements at the workhouse. The Board would be prepared to accept a certificate given on the lines stated in the Guardians' letter as sufficient proof of competency in those cases in which it is their practice to require, in regard to the appointment of charge or head nurses, evidence of training during a period of not less than three years, but this concession would not apply to the post of superintendent nurse under the General Order of August 6th, 1897, and the Board reserve to themselves the right to withdraw or modify it at any time. The name of the independent examiner appointed by the Guardians to conduct the examinations of the probationer nurses need not be submitted to the Board, and no further sanction on their part is necessary to enable the Guardians to make him a reasonable payment for his services in this respect. It is also competent to the Guardians to expend a reasonable sum in the purchase of requisite appliances. This is satisfactory, and should certainly conduce to a higher standard of nursing in this infirmary.

At an inquest last week upon an inmate in the Lambeth Workhouse who committed suicide, Nurse Barkwith, who was on night duty at the time of the occurrence, gave evidence that she was responsible for the care of the patients in three wards in the infirmary, numbering over 100 in all, and if anyone was taken ill in the workhouse, where there were over 800 inmates, she had also to go and attend to them. The jury returned a verdict of "suicide whilst of unsound mind," and expressed the opinion that the wards were not properly supervised, an opinion in which most people will concur.

A letter was recently received by the Chelmsford Guardians from the Local Government Board asking to be furnished with particulars concerning the decease of an inmate who was found dead on the floor of the infirmary ward. Mr. A. Lunney said that he laid the whole thing before the Board, and he was glad the matter had cropped up. It was a scandal that a poor patient should be found lying dead and cold on the infirmary floor. It was a scandal that one night nurse should have to look after 120 patients. He hoped the Local Government Board would further investigate the matter. The Rev. A. J. Sacre protested against Mr. Lunney's remarks, and said that a committee had thoroughly investigated the matter, and found that absolutely no blame was attached to anyone. The man was

not found cold, but had been on the floor only a minute or so before being discovered.

Surely someone is to blame if patients in infirmary wards die alone on the floor. If it is a fact that one night nurse has to look after 120 patients, then the Guardians must accept part of the blame in the matter. Only last week we expressed the opinion that nurses who accept posts with which duties are connected which are impossible of fulfilment are also blameworthy when accidents occur.

It is worthy of note that the conduct of a nurse affects not herself alone, but the profession to which she belongs, and ultimately the welfare of the sick. A case in point is that of a probationer at the Chichester Poor-Law Infirmary, whose resignation the Guardians refused to accept, and who, therefore, wrote to the Board that she intended to take her dismissal on a given date. The clerk pointed out that the case was a very hard one for the Guardians, as they would lose £5 which, according to agreement, could be deducted from her salary at the first year. Arising out of the question, the appointment of another nurse was discussed. Two members of the Board expressed the opinion that "the more nurses they had the more trouble they would get." The formation of this opinion as the practical outcome of a nurse's conduct is to be deplored, but it must nevertheless be remembered that the conditions of nursing which prevail in many of the smaller infirmaries are not such as to attract the highest type of women to enter them for training.

A new home for nurses in connection with the staff of trained nurses of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital has been opened by the Bishop of Norwich at St.-Martin-at-Palace-Plain. Miss Creighton has been appointed Sister-in-Charge. Accommodation is provided in the home for two paying patients, but it is intended that the six nurses on the staff shall work amongst the poor and the minor tradespeople.

Preaching recently to an immense gathering on Douglas Head the annual sermon in aid of the Town Nurse Fund, Dr. Chavasse, Bishop of Liverpool, said, in conclusion:—He was asked to mention to the visitors to the Island, who were breathing the pure air and looking upon its beauties, and who would go back to work benefited, that the fund was in need of assistance. They all knew what it was to be sick, and what it was to be tenderly nursed. Therefore, he asked them to help the poor sick of Douglas. He was not going to beg for such an object—it begged for itself.

The work of a district nurse includes not only the actual nursing work she performs, but, if its full value is to be attained, she must also act as a health

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