

wards by "pitting" the junior nurses against their Superintendent, and thus make confusion worse confounded by making discipline impossible. At Dudley, the Guardians have called upon the Superintendent, Miss Newbury, to resign; and with spirit she declines. The Guardians thereupon offer a deputation to the Local Government Board, which, apparently, is to consist of those members who are personally antagonistic to Miss Newbury. We marvel more and more at trained nurses risking their reputations, peace of mind, and health in the almost impossible task of trying to have the sick poor efficiently nursed in workhouse wards.

At Plymouth, rumours of friction are rife, and Miss Mary Holliday, the Superintendent of Nurses, lately sent a long, sensible letter to the Board of Guardians, pointing out that she came to their service with good credentials, and adds that "as it is to me that you look for efficient management, to you I look for support."

We fear, however, that Miss Holliday will look in vain for justice if Mr. Argall is permitted to have his way. His remarks "that the Superintendent Nurse could not expect young ladies who came to the workhouse to gain experience as nurses to stand it like 'dummies' and 'slaves,'" and "that it would be a good thing if the Master and Matron exercised greater authority over the institution than they did," all made public by the local Press, are calculated to arouse ill-feeling between the Superintendent and the junior nurses, and to make efficient management impossible. It is time the Local Government Board was compelled, by public opinion, to thoroughly modernise its system of nursing, and we should advise it at once to follow in the steps of the War Office in organising a Nursing Department at headquarters. This the present President will not do without public pressure, and it should be brought to bear upon him in his own constituency in South Bristol. Nursing matters have gone from bad to worse at the Local Government Board office since the death of Dr. Thorne Thorne.

Miss Annie J. Hobbs, whose appointment as Matron of the Auxiliary Nurses' Association we reported last week, has held the position of Assistant Matron at the Nurses' Co-operation since January, 1900.

Miss Margaret Bridger, Matron of the Swansea Hospital, resigned her office at the last meeting of the Committee. We regret to hear it.

The fortnightly meeting of the King's Coronation Citizens' Executive Committee was held recently at their offices, 17, Nassau Street, Dublin, Mr. Andrew

Beattie, J.P., T.C., chairman, presiding. The Chairman reported that the subscriptions already received for the Coronation National Fund for Nurses in Ireland amounted to £3,181 8s. 2d. The report of a special sub-committee appointed at the last meeting for the purpose of investing the funds in hand in suitable securities was read and approved.

Intelligent and practical efforts to raise the standard of trained nurses, and to put nursing on a professional basis in America, will, we hear, receive an adequate measure of recognition, and they certainly merit the hearty support of State Legislatures and of the public generally.

The trained nurse is recognised as an indispensable adjunct of medical practice in a large class of dangerous and critical ailments. To be a trained nurse nowadays implies more responsibility, more serious duties, a higher skill and more thorough training than is required in any other vocation open to women save the practice of medicine itself. In such diseases as typhoid fever, pneumonia and other forms of infectious diseases, nursing is "half the battle."

The knowledge of hygiene, ventilation, dietetics, anatomy, materia medica, and antiseptics now required compels the nurse to devote two or three years of her life to special preparation. The graduate nurse of to-day occupies a position of ever-increasing importance. That she shall attain to the highest standard of skill and efficiency it is necessary that her work should be provided with some of the safeguards that are thrown around other skilled professions.

An important movement in this direction is the agitation in favour of State Registration of Nurses. Under such a system graduate nurses would be differentiated from "uncertified" or untrained nurses, and the professional status of the trained nurse would be no less sharply defined than that of the physician.

Writing from Paris, a correspondent in the *Pall Mall Gazette* says:—"A clever young doctor here, who has inspected the hospitals in England and America, is working quietly away to accomplish a reform which must have a great effect on the treatment of the sick. His idea is to elevate the calling of a nurse in the French hospitals into a real profession. It is very far from being so now. The nurse here is a woman of the lowest class; her knowledge, such as it is, is entirely acquired by practice; she attends no lectures and passes no examinations, and she is treated as a mere menial by the doctor, who gives her no responsibility whatever. She actually receives tips from the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)