

to take the requisition to the colour-sergeant of the patient's company. 4. The colour-sergeant of the company (a busy man at all times) has to purchase the articles, acquaint the captain of the company, if necessary, and to give them to the orderly corporal in charge of the sick. 5. The orderly corporal in charge of the sick has now to find the orderly in charge of the sick man's Ward, who finally delivers the stamp and sheet of paper to the patient. Thus, if no unnecessary delay occurs, the man, after waiting two or three days, obtains his writing materials; but if, as is not unfrequently the case, any link in the long and cumbrous chain be either careless or forgetful he may remain weeks without them.

THE subject of the next Essay Competition is, to my mind, a particularly easy one, and should therefore attract a number of competitors. A prize is offered for "The best and most complete collection of alphabetically-arranged terms (from any source) used in nursing, giving as far as possible their origin and meaning." All that appears to me necessary to be done is to hunt up all the works upon nursing to be got hold of, carefully read them through, select the technical terms found therein, and write them out in alphabetical order. Thus the most industrious competitor is likely to prove the winner.

I GAVE my opinion last week pretty freely concerning the doings of certain boards of guardians, inviting Miss Louisa Twining's attention to their ways. The *Northern Whig*, Belfast, recently had the following concerning the Lurgan Guardians.

"AT the request of Dr. Magennis, J.P., the report of the Visiting Committee for last month was read. The Committee was formed of Dr. Magennis, J.P., and Mr. W. H. Bingham; and in their report they set forth that 'the same value of sweetmilk in place of buttermilk would be more suitable for the aged and infirm, and that one-half of the dining-hall ceiling required repairs, and the Committee recommended it to be sheeted the same as the other part.' Dr. Magennis said the question of substituting sweetmilk for buttermilk had lately been taken in hand by another gentleman, and in his opinion the change was most desirable. Among the aged and infirm the complaint was universal that they did not care for the buttermilk.

"ON visiting the Infirmary, it struck him that several matters required investigation and improvement. In the first place, about three-fourths

of the bread given to the inmates remained unconsumed, and, he presumed, ultimately went to feed the pigs, a thing that none of them would tolerate in their own households. In one Male Ward there were fifty-eight patients, and only three of these get butter in the morning, and he supposed the Medical Officer was apprehensive of reproach from the Board if he increased the supply of butter, but he (Dr. Magennis) believed the Board would not reproach him for giving these male inmates butter at the morning meal.

"IN the Female Infirmary Ward there are from ninety to one hundred inmates, and for these there was *only one Trained Nurse*, who had seven pauper assistants under her. When they remembered what a lamentable fatal accident happened some time ago in one of the best-regulated institutions in Belfast—the Royal Hospital—the idea of having one paid Nurse for ninety inmates was absurd. He did not object to pauper Nurses rendering some assistance, but that close on one hundred persons should be left in their charge for twelve or sixteen hours certainly did appear scandalous, and should be at once remedied. Mr. Douie, J.P., objected to introducing a number of changes which would burden the Union with heavy expense."

NOT only do I agree with Dr. Magennis that the idea of one trained Nurse for ninety to one hundred patients is absurd. I go further than that, much further, and say that it is considerably more than absurd; it is *criminal*.

AND that particular Male Ward where there are fifty-eight patients, out of which *only three* get butter in the mornings, must be a refreshing spectacle about breakfast-time.

I MADE a few remarks also upon the treatment of Miss Johnson, the Nurse of the Dover Union Infirmary. The Rev. G. Sarson, of Holy Trinity Vicarage, gave his ideas upon the matter at the time through the press thuswise.

"IT is of comparatively small importance whether the Nurse has behaved in the best possible manner under the circumstances. The really important fact is that except for her the Guardians would not have known that the poor were receiving insufficient supplies. Mr. Pepper himself said, when he and the Committee of Investigation made their report, 'he thought that the accusation made about the wines and spirits was true, and had been proved; and three out of the four of the Committee of Investigation signed the report

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