

former for not less than thirty years' service, the latter for not less than twenty-five years' service. In response, applications were received from sixteen candidates for gold medals, and from eighteen for silver medals, and these were carefully gone into by a sub-committee appointed for the purpose with the result that gold medals were adjudged to:—

Mr. W. Hope, now Inspector at Colney Hatch Asylum, who had passed 36½ years in asylum service.

Miss M. Riches, Head Nurse at Heigham Hall Asylum, Norwich, who had passed 35½ years in asylum service.

While the silver medals were adjudged to:—

Charge Attendant Mr. C. Walker, of Caterham Asylum (28½ years' service).

Miss A. Garry, now Chief Nurse at Gloucester County Asylum (28½ years' service).

The Executive Committee desire to point out that, on the strong recommendation of the Sub-Committee on "Medals," they have been compelled to increase the minimum length of service for competitors for gold medals to 35 years instead of 30 as originally proposed, and for silver medals 30 years instead of 25. This change has proved necessary in consequence of the unexpectedly large number of entries at the lower periods of service.

At the last meeting of the Camberwell Guardians a pleasant break was made in the routine business to make a presentation of a gold medal and eighteen certificates of proficiency to probationer nurses who had creditably passed an examination in nursing and medical subjects. The examiner, Dr. Bryant, Guy's Hospital, in his report of the examination, stated that the nurses answered the written questions clearly and correctly, showing they had been trained to a high standard of efficiency. The Guardians held the result to be very gratifying, and offered their congratulations to the recipients of the awards. Nurse Quilter secured the gold medal, which was presented by the Medical Superintendent of the Infirmary.

The result of this examination must be very gratifying to Miss Marquardt, the Matron of the Infirmary, who regularly holds classes for the probationary nurses, and takes the keenest interest in the efficiency of the training-school. The plan now adopted by many Boards of Guardians of appointing examiners from other institutions is an excellent one. We wish they would go a step further and, following the example of the British Gynaecological Society, appoint trained nurses, who have held the position of Superintendents of Training-

Schools, to examine in the details of practical nursing. There are many who have retired from active nursing duties who are qualified to take up this bit of work, and, we believe, would gladly do so if invited.

At a recent meeting of the members of the Greenwich Board of Guardians it was mentioned that a man who had been for some time an inmate of the infirmary had died leaving £20,000. A Guardian said he had told the Board at the time that this man was wealthy. He had been informed that he had left legacies to one of the doctors and to the attendants who waited upon him, and that the will had been made out in the infirmary. He asked if it was right that their officers should receive gratuities from those they had to attend upon in their official capacity. The Chairman said they could not interfere in a matter of that sort. The man had paid the entire cost of his treatment whilst in the infirmary, and he had no option but to come in, as he had nobody to look after him.

The incident proves the revolution caused in the care of the sick and infirm by the introduction of trained nursing into infirmary wards. Time was when workhouse infirmaries were the last resort of the destitute. We are inclined to think that the owner of £20,000 might have found someone to look after him, and that he had considerable "option," as he could have secured the services of a private nurse for £2 2s. a week.

We commend the action of the Ross Board of Guardians at its last meeting, when the House Committee reported that the nurses in the infirmary complained that tales were being circulated in the town that they were using the wine and other things ordered for the patients, and that they were also unkind to them. It was requested that an investigation should be made, as they were able to say where the tales originated. The Board went into committee to investigate the charges, and with a view of taking proceedings for libel if a case were made out.

Miss Barker, who has been for so many years the district nurse at Rowbarton, has resigned, and the Committee, taking everything into consideration, have decided to give up the responsibility of nursing this district of the town. Very shortly the district will, therefore, be amalgamated with the Town Association, and will be nursed by the Taunton District Nursing Association. For many years Miss Barker has proved herself a true friend. Many a patient (says the *St. Andrew's Magazine*) has often said how much they owe, not merely to her nursing, but to her kindness and goodness. In and out at all times of the day, and oftentimes of the night too, she has devoted herself to those she nursed.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)