

Annotations.

COUNTY COUNCILS AND SANATORIA.

The Council of the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption at their last meeting received a letter from the Local Government Board detailing the powers possessed by County Councils in relation to the erection and maintenance of sanatoria. The letter was in reply to one sent on behalf of the Association, signed by Sir William Broadbent and the Secretary, on the question of the powers which may be exercised by County Councils in dealing with pulmonary tuberculosis. From this letter it appears that under the Isolation Hospitals Act, 1893, County Councils are empowered to constitute hospital districts for the provision of hospitals for the reception of patients suffering from certain infectious diseases. Although pulmonary tuberculosis is not one of these diseases, the provision of the Act may, with the approval of the Local Government Board, be applied to that disease by order of the County Council or any Committee to whom the County Council have delegated their powers in this regard. When the Act is applied in this way County Councils may constitute one or more hospital districts for the provision of hospital accommodation for cases of pulmonary tuberculosis. When a hospital district has been constituted the County Council must constitute for it a hospital committee, which, when formed, may provide accommodation for cases of the disease:

- (1) By erecting one or more hospitals.
- (2) By entering into agreements for the use of any existing hospital, or part of a hospital.
- (3) One hospital committee may arrange for the reception of its patients into the hospital of another committee.

In regard to finances, a County Council have power to contribute out of the county rate a capital or annual sum towards the structural and establishment expenses of an isolation hospital provided under the above Act, or the Public Health Act (1875). The Council also has the power to borrow money for carrying the provisions of the Act into effect.

GYNÆCOLOGICAL AND MATERNITY EXAMINATIONS.

The written examinations of the British Gynæcological Society in Gynæcological and Maternity Nursing were held at St. John's House, Norfolk Street, Strand, on Thursday last. The *viva*

voce examinations will be held at the same place on June 18th. Candidates will receive due notice of the time at which they are required to attend.

A DIVIDED ALLEGIANCE.

The sequel to the episode of Local Government Board inquiry into nursing matters at the Granard Workhouse is that the nuns employed there have resigned their position. From a nursing point of view, remembering the fact that the Local Government Board for Ireland stated that the evidence at the recent inquiry "revealed a condition of things regarding the provision made by the guardians for the care of the sick and infirm which may be described as shocking," this decision cannot be regretted. But there are other points to be observed in relation to the episode.

The letter of the Sisters was as follows:—

"To the Chairman of the Granard Board of Guardians.

"Dear Sir,—We are directed by our ecclesiastical superiors to resign our offices as members of the nursing staff. We do, therefore, now place our resignation in the hands of your Board. We desire to thank your Board for the uniform kindness and courtesy it has always shown us.

"We are, faithfully yours,

"SISTER MARY MICHAEL CLANCY.

"SISTER MARY ROSE SHARRY.

"Granard Union Hospital."

Now, in the first place, it must be noted that the profession of nursing is an exacting mistress, demanding whole-hearted devotion from those who enter its ranks. It is precisely this point which is involved by the employment of nuns. They own allegiance to a dual authority, and their position is consequently incompatible with their greatest efficiency as nurses.

Not only so, but the ecclesiastical authority to which they own allegiance is regarded as the supreme one. Nursing is merely incidental work taken up at the bidding of ecclesiastical superiors, and relinquished *at a moment's notice* at the same bidding.

In the present instance a deputation from the guardians to the Rev. Mother obtained the concession, very reluctantly made, that the Nursing Sisters should remain in charge of the Workhouse Infirmary for another week. What lay nurses, in charge of infirmary wards, would be allowed to throw up their charge at a moment's notice? If nuns are to undertake nursing responsibilities they must be made to understand that they must view these responsibilities seriously.

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