

mittee of the Hospital he should want to know why they did not send out properly-qualified nurses.

On being put to the vote, the resolution was rejected by the casting vote of the Chairman.

The right procedure is undoubtedly for the Matron to sift applications for nursing appointments and recommend suitable candidates to the Committee. The *selection* of candidates is thus entrusted to the Matron, and in our view is one of the most important duties she is paid to perform. Her expert knowledge is of the greatest value to her Committee. But appointments should always be made by the responsible board.

With regard to testimonials, it is well known that very often they are not worth the paper on which they are written, and no experienced Matron or Committee will rely on these alone. Mr. Woodeson's remark is typical of the attacks to which Matrons who endeavour to perform their public duty are subjected. If a Matron, in the course of her duty, gives an accurate report of a nurse's qualifications, and that report is not flattering to the nurse, it is most common for someone to suggest that personal spite is the reason for this professional opinion.

The Committee of the Infirmary are wholly right in requiring that their charge nurses shall submit evidence of their own professional knowledge, as tested by examination, before they are entrusted with the education of others. The Committee of the Royal Portsmouth Hospital, which grants certificates "after personal observation of the nurses only," cannot be surprised if these are not held sufficient qualification for candidates for responsible posts. Nor is it just to probationers who have worked conscientiously for three years to give them such worthless documents.

The Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese (Dr. Hoare) has intimated to the Granard Guardians that he will allow the nuns who were summarily withdrawn from their charge of the sick wards in the Granard Workhouse to return, provided Dr. Kenny is not left in charge. We hope that the Local Government Board will see to it that Dr. Kenny is supported in the performance of his clear duty in endeavouring to secure to the sick in his charge competent nursing care, and further that the nuns and their "ecclesiastical superiors" will be made to understand that the nursing of the sick is a serious matter and cannot be renounced at a moment's notice and resumed at will. Meanwhile Dr. Kenny has reported to the Guardians that a strange medical practitioner has entered the infirmary and assaulted several of the patients, and that the infirmary books have also been tampered with!

The Hospital World.

PROGRESS AT THE NORFOLK AND NORWICH HOSPITAL.

The nursing staff of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital are eagerly anticipating the pleasure of finding themselves in the beautiful building provided through the munificence of the Right Hon. the Earl of Leicester, which is this month to be dedicated to the service of the institution which it adjoins. The Leicester Nurses' Home stands on the site of an old-fashioned residence called "The Shrubbery," which has been quite demolished, so that about seven acres and a-half of ground has now been utilised for the benefit of this fine county hospital.

From Sir Peter Eade's interesting history of the hospital much light is thrown on the conditions of nurses and nursing during the last century, during which period the nursing of the sick evolved from a most primitive condition into a highly-skilled profession, and it gives us fresh courage to urge further reform to acquaint ourselves with obsolete nursing methods.

By the original rules of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital it was provided that while the apothecary, secretary, and Matron should be appointed by the general Board, such nurses and servants as were necessary should be engaged by the weekly Board. The nurses were, in fact, regarded as servants, and were obliged to clean their respective wards by seven in the morning in the summer months and by eight in the winter. "Nurses and servants" were ordered to obey the Matron as their mistress, and to behave with tenderness to the patients and civility and respect to strangers. House visitors attended each day, and the nurses were ordered to withdraw when they entered the ward. The visitors questioned the patients as to the treatment they were receiving, and subsequently the Matron, nurses, and servants were catechised as to the patients' behaviour. Night nurses seem to have at first been hired as they were wanted, but as early as 1772 two were engaged and ordered to be entertained in the house at a salary of five guineas per annum.

By 1802 there were nine nurses employed, two receiving seven guineas and the others six guineas. In the year in question a nurses' fund was established, and the salaries were increased to £8 and £7 respectively, the additional amount going to the fund aforesaid, and which was designed to be applied to the relief of those nurses who, from age or infirmity, were incapable of continuing their services to the hospital. In 1813, a nurse with ten years' service, who had fallen lame from a diseased hip, was allowed half-a-crown a week from the funds, to which was added 2s. more from "the parish." In 1814 there was another pensioner, at eighteen-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)