

should not exceed the cost of the former system, when the things were purchased on contract. The new arrangement, while being satisfactory to the nurses, involved even a slight decrease in expense instead of an increase. Mr. Woodson regretted that the Infirmary Committee should leave such a discretion in the hands of an official. It was contrary to the practice of the Board, and other public institutions elsewhere. The Infirmary Committee ought to exercise over the Infirmary the same authority as the House and Schools Committee exercised over those establishments. He did not, in any way, complain of the amount spent, but thought it was not proper to leave the discretion with an official without some supervision by the Committee.

Provided that the sum spent on housekeeping does not exceed that which the Infirmary Committee and Guardians consider just, we think the plan of giving discretion to the Matron as to the purchase of food is a wise one. By watching the market and making judicious purchases it is possible to provide a much greater variety in the dietary than if everything is bought by contract. Nurses need a varied and appetising diet, and time and trouble given to ensuring this to them is time well spent.

The Duchess of Northumberland recently entertained in the guest hall of Alnwick Castle the members of the Northern Counties Nursing Association, the party numbering over 200.

The Countess of Scarborough last week gave a garden party in the grounds of Wadworth Hall on behalf of the Sandbeck Nursing Association. In opening the proceedings the Countess said that the Sandbeck Nursing Association was begun a year ago, and, considering the difficulties which always occurred when something new was started in a country district, they might be well satisfied with what had been accomplished. They had decided to have nurses of their own trained, and having selected three suitable candidates they sent them up for training, and two of them had completed their course and were now nursing. She thanked the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. White, and hoped the Committee would not be discouraged if the scheme was not taken up keenly at first.

The training given to the candidates selected must have been a remarkably short one if, as was stated, the Association was only started a year ago and two of the candidates have already finished their training and are at work!

A nurses' home attached to the institution has long been a need of Birkenhead Borough Hospital. We are therefore glad to announce that the new home erected on a site at the rear of the buildings,

at a cost of £3,840, has now been completed, and is to be formally opened on Saturday, the 26th inst., by Sir Elliott Lees, Bart., D.S.O., M.P. for Birkenhead.

At a recent meeting of the Devonport Guardians the Infirmary Committee reported that at their last meeting a letter was read from the Local Government Board, stating that the Board would not feel justified in assenting to the appointment of so young a person as Miss K. Duff to the position of probationary nurse, and that they were strongly of opinion that no person less than twenty-one years of age should be appointed to the office. After careful consideration it was resolved that Miss Duff, being over eighteen years of age, and having shown an aptitude for the work, and having performed her duties so far to the satisfaction of the Board, the medical officer, and Superintendent Nurse, the Committee unanimously recommended that the appointment of Miss Duff be confirmed, and that the Local Government Board be informed that in future the Guardians would bear in mind their suggestion as to age. The Committee desired to point out that in June last the Board supported a recommendation of the Council of the Poor Law Unions Association, recommending that the minimum age of probationers be eighteen, and not twenty-one.

The question of the age at which probationers should be received for training is a very debatable one. It is argued, with much force, by some Matrons of experience that many girls are compelled to begin to earn their living at eighteen, that suitable candidates are disqualified if the age limit is fixed at twenty-one, that suitability is a question of temperament rather than of age, and that as women are admitted as medical students at eighteen it is illogical to decline them as nursing probationers at the same age. At the same time, experience seems to prove that at twenty-one girls are better able to stand the strain entailed in adopting a nursing career.

The sequel to the story of the fortune left to Miss Margaret Love Hunter, of 22, Underwood Road, Paisley, was heard in the Paisley Police Court, when Miss Hunter pleaded guilty to obtaining goods by fraudulently representing to a High Street draper that a gentleman friend had died and left her a large sum of money and an estate in Warwickshire. She had driven up to the establishment in a hired brougham. The magistrate sent her to prison for fifteen days. After the story of her accession to fortune was circulated, Miss Hunter received many letters, some offering marriage, others advising her how to invest the money, and others soliciting loans.

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