

the whole of the time she had been in the employ of the Guardians Nurse Bennett had acted as night nurse. This, he should think, constituted a record. We should hope so. No woman should be permitted, by a responsible public body, to lead so unnatural a life. Night and day nurses should change duty periodically, and three months is probably the limit of time in which night duty can be conscientiously performed without injury to health.

Nurse Booker, who for the past three years has acted as district nurse at Chirk Green, Denbighshire, has, on her resignation, been the recipient of a handsome presentation. This consisted of an illuminated address and a dressing bag, and was arranged by a committee of working men, who succeeded in raising the sum of about £12. After a tea, which preceded the presentation, Lord Trevor, who was received with applause, said it was a very great pleasure to Lady Trevor and himself to take part in a meeting in honour of Nurse Booker, who, he was sorry to say, was now leaving the district. It was very pleasing to Lady Trevor and himself to see how much the efforts of the nurse, who was brought to that district by Lady Trevor, had been appreciated. He was told that most of the people in that considerable gathering had been under the nurse's care at some period during the three years she had been there, and the address they were about to give her testified to the great care and attention she had bestowed on one and all of them during their illness. He had heard that she had saved a considerable number of fingers and that sort of thing, which might have been lost had the cases got into less skilful hands than hers. Dr. Lloyd, in making the presentation, said that Lady Trevor was the practical pioneer of the nursing movement in that district. Now that Nurse Booker was leaving, there was a feeling on the part of her old friends and patients that she should not be allowed to go away without some slight recognition of her services, and some expression of the high appreciation in which she was held. Nurse Booker acknowledged the presentation in suitable terms.

A question which does not much affect hospital politics in this country seems to loom large in some Irish hospitals, namely, the proportion of Roman Catholic to Protestant nurses—and the priests of the former Church seem always ready to advance the interests of their flocks in this connection. We suppose it is necessary for Matrons to inquire the religion to which candidates for probationers' posts belong in order that they may make the necessary arrangements for them to attend their respective places of worship. Otherwise it would, in our opinion, be better if no questions were asked as to religions at all, and if the candidates were appointed solely on their physical and personal qualifications.

A medical officer is appointed for his professional ability, not because of the form of religion which he adopts, and this is the only possible satisfactory basis on which to select a nursing staff. The question was discussed at considerable length at a recent meeting of the County Tyrone Hospital, when Dr. Thompson, M.P. (surgeon), said:—"While there were not so many Roman Catholic nurses in the institution, still there was a large number. It had always been his desire that the Roman Catholics should have the fairest possible representation on the nursing staff. He would be glad to see more than at present. The appointment of nurses lay with the Governors, and he had nothing to say except that, when they fulfilled the probationary period, if they were not suitable they had to be got rid of." This is sound sense. It is possible to be a most devout Roman Catholic or Protestant, as the case may be, and yet to have no vocation as a nurse; and this, after all, is the point of moment.

The necessity for providing proper facilities for the treatment and nursing of prisoners was recently brought up at an inquest held on a woman who died at the Mountjoy Prison, Dublin, while undergoing a sentence of fourteen days' imprisonment. The Coroner stated the circumstances of the case to the jury, and said deceased was admitted to the prison on September 1st. On the 4th inst. she complained, and was removed to hospital. Finding the woman's condition growing very serious, the prison doctor called in Dr. Taylor in consultation. Dr. Taylor found that everything that could possibly be done had been done by the medical officer of the prison, and that the only possible chance of saving the woman's life would have been an operation. Dr. Taylor added in the entry he made in the prison books in reference to the case that there was no means of doing any serious operation, such as would have been necessary in this case. The woman sank some hours afterwards and died.

This was supported by the evidence given by the Governor of the prison, who, in answer to a question as to whether it was correct that there was no place in the prison where an operation could be performed, replied in the affirmative.

Dr. Dowdall, the medical officer of the prison, in reply to a similar question, said: "The surroundings were not what they should be for the performance of a very grave operation."

The jury then returned a verdict to the effect that deceased died in Mountjoy Prison on September 6th from acute intestinal obstruction. They added that in their opinion there was no neglect on the part of the officials, and that the doctors acted as they should have acted; but they further added that it was the view of the jury that facilities for major operations should be available in the prison.

This verdict will be endorsed by most

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