

to the Clerk. She had been on the Hospital Committee ever since Miss Frost was appointed Matron, and she had never seen anything but the best feeling for the Matron. She would like to testify to Miss Frost's hard and painstaking work. She hoped that, whoever was the Matron hereafter, she would have the confidence of the Board until such time as that confidence was forfeit through something which could be proved.

After Mr. Tillotson had made a personal statement, in the course of which he resigned his position, the Clerk read Miss Frost's letter of resignation, in which she stated that she resigned her post as a protest against the treatment she had received from a subordinate official. She thanked the Guardians for their many kindnesses. The resignation of Nurses Coates and Milnes having also been received, the Clerk said that now the discussion was ended he desired to state, as legal adviser of the Committee, that he was quite satisfied, after hearing all the evidence in a judicial frame of mind, that there was absolutely no shred of evidence whatever that would attach the least imputation to anyone connected with the institution. He thought it only right to say this. The young ladies at the hospital were sister officials of his, and the scandal in the town had attached not only to Mr. Tillotson, but to some of those young ladies. After hearing the evidence, he could say that all of them, including Mr. Tillotson, were absolutely free from any blame whatever.

We must say that the more we see of the risks connected with nursing under the Poor Law the more we wonder at well-trained nurses accepting office under irresponsible Boards of Guardians. We hope that before long the Poor Law Nursing Service will be controlled by a Central Nursing Department under the Local Government Board, as is the Military Nursing Department in connection with the War Office.

The Local Government Board for Ireland has now published its decision on the recent inquiry held by one of its inspectors, Dr. Joseph Smythe, in reference to the admission of Dr. J. Maguire to do temporary duty in the hospital of the Granard Workhouse without authority; into the circumstances attending the death of a patient named Masterson; and into the complaint of Father Egan as to the employment of a person of bad character in the wards. The Commissioners

(1) Dismiss the Master from office under seal for having admitted Dr. Maguire to the hospital without inquiry.

(2) They consider that Dr. Maguire is "not a proper person to be entrusted with the care of the Irish poor, and they will not sanction his employment in future either as permanent or temporary medical officer."

(3) State that Dr. Dolan "deserves censure for the part he took in actively helping out the scheme for the avowed purpose of depriving Dr. Kenny of his appointment in the Granard Workhouse. As, however, he has only been a short time in the Poor Law service, and has expressed regret for the part he took in the transaction, and as it is apparent that he was merely employed by others to work out their aims, the Board will not take further action in his case beyond making a record against him in the books of the department. It trusts, however, that this case will be a warning to him not to be again led into any similar discreditable transaction, and to confine his attention to the discharge of his duties in his own district." The other persons who took part in this regrettable affair are not amenable to the control of the Local Government Board.

(4) As regards the woman M'Alister, the Board considers that, whilst the Guardians are to blame for maintaining healthy unmarried mothers and their children in the infirmary, by refusing to provide accommodation for them in their proper place in the workhouse, and to procure sufficient paid attendants, yet this default of the Guardians did not justify the medical officer in retaining the woman's name on the medical book as a patient, even though he was not able to discharge her from the infirmary. The Board hopes that the protest of the Rev. Mr. Egan will have the effect of directing the Guardians' attention to their duties in this important matter.

The Board further states that the Guardians who were examined at the inquiry admitted that the recommendations as to hospital improvements and repairs were reasonable and necessary, and it requests that these improvements may be carried out without delay. It also expresses the hope that the Guardians will now endeavour to settle all outstanding questions with regard to the nursing in the workhouse, and that they will secure the services of a Master who will maintain discipline and promote harmony amongst the officers of the institution. The Board thought that Dr. Kenny's disclaimer with regard to any intention of hurting the feelings of the Sisters gave the Guardians an opportunity of effecting a reconciliation and of facilitating the return of the Sisters.

It appears to us that the person who shows up best in this inquiry is Dr. Kenny. The nuns, who left the institution without apparently consulting any convenience but their own, and without regard to the welfare of the sick poor entrusted to their charge, had, in our opinion, better remain away. The best chance of harmony and efficiency in the institution lies in the appointment of well-qualified nurses, and the present time affords an excellent opportunity for their introduction.

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