

post office buildings, approved by the Post Office Department, as filthy hovels. His sister had to attend in these two places in particular, and provision was made for her accommodation in the schoolhouse along with the head teacher. Every provision was made for her comfort. The nurse likely visited an old widow woman who was down with the fever, and who kept two or three hens, but her little cottage could not be called filthy or miserable. I know for certain his sister never made the remark, and he himself never visited any of the imaginary hovels he refers to."

The affairs at the Granard Union in regard to nursing matters still appear to be in a turbulent condition. At the audit of the accounts by Major Eccles, Local Government Board auditor, Mr. W. Reid, solicitor, on behalf of the Ratepayers' Association, asked the Auditor to surcharge a sum of £95 4s. 2d., nurses' expenses, which he claimed had been wasted and misapplied, as the Guardians had kept nurses in hotels while they had sufficient accommodation in the house. The Chairman of the Board, Mr. P. Macken, denied that they had accommodation for the nurses in the house. There was a sudden increase in the number of patients, and the doctor requisitioned a nurse. At that time the Guardians had the nuns nursing in the institution, and the lay nurses were quartered in the fever hospital; when a fever case came in they had to leave that, as the doctor would not allow them to be there. Major Eccles said he could not hold that the money spent by the Guardians had been misapplied, and under the circumstances he would make no disallowance. Mr. Reid could, if he thought desirable, take the case to the King's Bench, and he (Major Eccles) would put his reasons for disallowing the claim in writing.

In this country the story which comes from Madrid of the death of a patient in the County Hospital under the most harrowing circumstances sounds almost incredible. Yet, after all, it is not so long ago since lunatics in England were chained, housed as animals, and treated with the greatest severity. The case in question is of an insane patient who resisted the application of the strait-jacket, upon which the warders threw him on the ground, knelt brutally on his back, thrashed him till he was helpless, and then put on the jacket. The patient subsequently died. It is stated that the accommodation provided for insane patients in this hospital is a filthy, unwholesome, and evil-smelling sort of underground dungeon, having very little light and not sufficient air for the number of patients kept there. To those who realise that no class of patients need brighter surroundings or more tender care than the insane, such treatment is hideous in its cruelty. It is said that Spain is worse provided with public hospitals than any other

country, and that their reform on modern lines would be one of the most humanitarian measures that the Government could possibly introduce.

With the present issue, *Unit*, the journal of the Victorian Trained Nurses' Association (to which the King has been pleased to grant the title of "Royal"), will henceforth make its appearance monthly. This is good testimony to the support it has received in the past, and to the need felt by the members for an organ in which their views can be voiced.

The members of the Association seem to take a lively interest in their affairs, to judge by the discussion which took place at the monthly meeting, at which the business under consideration was the scale of fees to be charged, when some eighty nurses were present, and letters were read, signed in one case by ten and in the other by thirty-one nurses. Miss Madge Jones, who spoke at length on the subject, voiced the feeling of many of her colleagues in other parts of the world when she said:—

"We nurses find it very difficult to speak in public, partly, I think, because of 'that divinity that doth hedge about a doctor' in the eyes of a nurse. At a case they are our superior officers, and their word is law; consequently when we meet them here we do not care to expose our opinions to their criticism, for the lion, even though like the lion in the 'Midsummer Night's Dream' he roars as gently as any sucking dove, is still the king of beasts. For this occasion in all humility we ask that the lion may roar gently."

After dealing at length with the question of fees, Miss Jones said:—

"I have been asked a good many times lately, 'What is the use of the Association to us private nurses? What good has it done for us so far?' The question is to the point. The hospital nurses have the protection of their institution, but the private nurse goes out into the world to fight her own battle, to face disease and death, to be, in a quite humble way, the prop and stay of the suffering and bereaved. What wonder if she sometimes feels the need of the protection and support she gives to others; but I should like to ask in my turn, if the Association is not the help to private nurses that it might be, whose fault is that? My friends, the matter is in our own hands; the Association is ours to do what we like with it, to take a personal interest in, to work for together. It will not do for us to sit still and want everything done for us, leaving us merely to criticise what others do. Let us see to it that we do our share, remembering that though the nurses should not sacrifice individuality or freedom for a mistaken uniformity, yet union is strength, and together we can, if we will, do great things for our profession. On this eve of a New Year let us put aside all smaller considerations and make up our minds to work with our Council, to make the Association the help and support to its members that we all wish it to be, and, for our reward, our wages, as Tennyson puts it, 'we shall have the joy of progress, the glory of going on.'"

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