

the happy pair were taken home to the workhouse. In this way a succession of paupers was ensured, so that it sometimes happened that three generations were living together in the workhouse where they were born. Below is a copy from an old Blue Book of the cost to a parish of one of those weddings:—

	£	s.	d.
Putting horse and cart up at the public-house	0	1	2
Marriage licence	3	3	0
Horse and cart	0	6	2
Expenses at the "Swan" Inn, dinner, &c.	1	19	4½
J. Cox, constable (Rumbolt's keeper?)	0	3	6
Gold ring for Rumbolt to be married with	0	8	0
Parson and clerk	0	15	0
	£6	16	2½

Many of those old workhouses not only lacked discipline, as we have already seen, they lacked decency also. There was no separation of the sexes. Old and young, male and female, married and single, sick and sound, were left to mingle at will during the day, and in one place eight or ten married couples and several young girls slept in the same room at night.

The moral tone of the eighteenth century was admittedly low. In the workhouse it was deplorable. Nor does it appear that anything was done to remedy the evil, except in a single instance.

This exception was at Wallingford, where "a small room was reserved for some preachers of the Methodist persuasion, who attended twice a week to hold a preaching and a prayer meeting."

It must not be supposed that "workhouse life in ye olden tyme" was the same everywhere. Much depended on the responsible officials. Then, too, Parliament gave a wide choice of methods of administration. Of this full advantage was taken, so that a radical difference was sometimes seen in adjoining parishes. Fully recognising this, however, one cannot but see that the whole system of administration was vicious, and its effect ruinous. It was a case of the "beggar on horseback," with the inevitable result. Neither character nor rates were saved. The pauper was pampered and the nation was beggared. Let us hope that these good old times will "come again no more."

### American Nursing World.

Miss M. Eugenie Hibbard, who is well known to many nurses in this country as the Superintendent of Nursing on the hospital ship *Maine* in South African waters, has been appointed head of the corps of nurses stationed by the United States Government along the line of the Panama Canal. On her return to America Miss Hibbard was appointed the head of a Government training school for nurses which she established in Cuba, and remained there until the United States withdrew from the island. Two nurses have accompanied her to her new post, and more will follow if needed.

### Nursing Echoes.

\* \* \* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



Before leaving the Solent the King and Queen paid a surprise visit to Haslar Hospital. They were received by Deputy Inspector-General Pearson and Fleet Surgeon Tait, and Miss Cadenhead, head of the nursing staff, joined the Royal party in the wards. The King expressed his pleasure at the admirable order which prevailed. On leaving the hospital their Majesties got into an ambulance car, and were drawn by the male probationer nurses to the pier-head.

The Queen also visited the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, to inspect the new nursing quarters. Her Majesty, who was accompanied by the Prince of Wales and Princess Victoria, was received by the chief medical officer, Sir E. Townsend, and was conducted through the nurses' quarters by the Lady Superintendent, Miss A. Smith.

Dr. Thompson recently asked the Home Secretary in the House of Commons if he were aware that the Central Midwives' Board had appointed nurses to examine candidates for the diploma in midwifery, and, if so, would he direct that candidates for a midwifery diploma must be examined by qualified physicians and surgeons. Mr. Akers Douglas replied that he thought this was not the case. He understood that the whole scheme of examination was still under the consideration of the Central Midwives' Board. That Board was, however, left by statute free to exercise its discretion in the appointment of examiners, and he had no power to give directions in the matter.

In view of the misapprehension which seems to prevail on this point, it is well to recapitulate what actually occurred at the meeting of the Central Midwives' Board on June 30th, when Draft Suggestions, prepared by Dr. Cullingworth, of a scheme of examinations were discussed. The first provision suggested ran: "A list of examiners, both for London and the provinces, shall be prepared by the Central Midwives' Board from those who are willing to serve, and to act when required by the Board." Dr. Ward Cousins moved that only registered medical practitioners should be appointed as examiners, but, after full discussion and consideration, it was agreed to leave the hands of the Board free in this matter.

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