

Infirmary because of a remark attributed to the Matron there that she would not care to take a nurse from Croydon Infirmary. Dr. Addison suggested that in future the Matron (Miss Pagen) should keep a book, and report quarterly or half-yearly on each nurse. Could she give a good account of a nurse for three years, and then turn round and refuse to sign her certificate? The position would be quite safe without this, but it would make it absolutely sure. He had taken the trouble to get information from twenty-six London infirmaries, and found that at twenty-five of them nurses' certificates were signed by the Matron.

Miss Musselwhite seconded.

Mr. T. P. Wood said Dr. Addison had not given proof of any nurse failing to get a situation.

Mr. J. B. Moore asked the Board not take any notice of Dr. Addison's threat, that the subject would come up again and again till settled in the nurses' favour.

Mr. W. H. J. Owen said that Dr. Addison was a comparatively new member of the Board, and had no idea of the trouble the Guardians had had in the past. Mr. Owen asserted that there was outside influence in the matter, and quoted the Nursing Press. Dr. Addison was taking a professional point of view; the Board should look at it from a business point of view, and not allow themselves to get into the same old difficulties again. In Miss Pagen they had a Matron whom they could all trust, but she might not always be with them. There had never been before them a specific instance of the hardship incurred. It was very silly indeed to talk about the bread and butter of the nurses being taken away. It was absolutely a question of sentiment. However, he had no objection to the resolution if Dr. Addison would consent to the following addition:—

“Provided that, if at any future time circumstances shall arise which, in the opinion of the Board, shall make it necessary to dispense with the Matron's signature on such certificates, the Board shall be at liberty to forthwith dispense with the same.”

Dr. Addison accepted this addition, and the Clerk (Mr. H. List) explained that if any difficulty about the Matron's signature occurred the Guardians would not have to apply to the Local Government Board, nor would they have to go through the form of rescinding any previous resolution.

Answering Mrs. Jarvis, the Chairman said that the certificate question was one of the circumstances connected with the late Matron's resignation.

The original resolution, with the addition, was adopted by 18 votes to 6.

We congratulate Dr. Addison on having carried the point, though we regret he accepted Mr. Owen's amendment. Presumably, he did so to save the *amour propre* of the Chairman of the Infirmary

Committee, who has throughout opposed this reasonable request of the nurses. He presented the report of that Committee to the Board, recommending that the request of the probationers be not complied with; he refused to accept an amendment, referring the matter back for further consideration. On the Guardians adopting this course, and after the decision of the Committee at a subsequent meeting to advise the Guardians to take steps to restore the Matron's signature, Mr. Owen still declared it was “all a mere matter of sentiment, fomented by the Nursing Press,” so that he has throughout shown himself out of sympathy with the nurses on this vital question.

Mr. Owen's addition, however, is not likely to do much harm, for, should the Guardians adopt its suggestion at any time, and grant a certificate to a probationer for whose efficiency the Matron declined to be responsible, the reason for the absence of her signature would at once be inquired into by those to whom the nurse applied for employment, and thus the certificate would do her more harm than good. Further, if they so acted, it is probable both the Matron and the majority of the nursing staff would at once resign. The Croydon Guardians have now, however, shown themselves alive to the necessity for the Matron's signature, and it is improbable that they will not again seek to dispense with it before we have a central governing authority for the nursing profession; and such an authority will certainly only recognise certificates to which the Matron's signature is appended.

A nursing home for gentlefolk in connection with the Royal Scottish Nursing Institution was opened on Monday, December 5th, by Her Royal Highness Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, at 20, Torphichin Street, Edinburgh. This home, which is specially intended to meet the needs of gentle people of limited means, can accommodate thirteen patients. Each patient has a separate room, and only the fully-trained nurses of the Royal Scottish Nursing Institution are employed. There is a very complete operating theatre with all the latest scientific equipment, and no effort has been spared to make the interior of the home both pleasing and comfortable.

A new nurses' home at Airdrie for district nurses was recently opened, in the presence of a large gathering, by the Countess of Eglington and Winton. The home is to accommodate three nurses, who are in connection with the Queen Victoria Jubilee Nurses' Association, and was erected partly by the Association, assisted by a donation of £900 from Mr. Alexander Waddell, of the Palace, Jedburgh. Miss Guthrie Wright, Secretary for Scotland of the Jubilee Nurses' Association, and Mrs. George Fenton Livingstone also spoke.

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