

We note that on the representation of Miss Love, the Hastings Guardians have increased their subscription to the local nursing association from £10 to £20. It was pointed out that unless more financial help were received the work of the Association would have to be dropped, in which case the Guardians would be involved in a considerably increased expenditure.

The Edmonton Guardians are anxious to lessen the hours of duty for nurses. This is not surprising, when one learns that the nurses are on duty for thirteen hours at Edmonton, and fourteen at Enfield. One guardian remarked during a discussion of the question, that "the nurses only worked eleven hours"; the *only* is significant. Anyway, the matter is to receive further consideration. Ten hours' actual work in wards is the utmost a woman can do satisfactorily, and without injury to health.

There is a good deal of fuss being made by various people interested in the Cumberland Nursing Association over the suggestion to delete the rule that nurses shall only act in conjunction with a doctor, excepting in cases of grave emergency; in other words, that each nurse employed by the Association, who is registered under the Midwives' Act and therefore entitled to practise midwifery, should be permitted to attend obstetric cases independently of the doctor.

Of course, a Nursing Association can make what rules it prefers, to which the nurses must conform, but the fact is that the majority of these nurses are registered midwives, and according to the law are doing nothing illegal in acting as such. It is a pity that Nursing Associations have not the courage to face the matter boldly, if they wish to employ midwives why don't they do so, and give them their legal title instead of calling them trained nurses, which, more often than enough, they are not?

In addressing a meeting at Bude last week, Miss Broadwood, founder of the Holt-Ockley system of rural nursing, said that "hospital trained nurses were not required for district nursing, they wanted someone who would understand cottage homes, a real country woman who was accustomed to work, and who was not afraid of it." Why, then, call them *nurses*?

And how about our "Queen's" Nurses? Who more devoted to work and helpful to the poor in their own homes than these trained hospital nurses, and who more beloved of the poor? No lady in the land. If you want a "char" have one—"chars" are admirable, useful women, no doubt; but *don't* call them nurses.

A terrible case was considered by the Wandsworth Guardians recently of a lunatic under their

care who was sent to the Fesherton House Asylum Salisbury, on November 15th, 1904, and notice having been received by the guardians that she was "convalescent," she was brought back to the workhouse on September 14th. On arrival there she was found to be *enceinte*. The facts having been laid before the Commissioners in Lunacy, they replied that the matter had been reported to them by the Asylum authorities, but that the Attorney-General had decided it was not a case in which to prosecute the official alleged to have betrayed the woman.

On September 20th the Medical Superintendent stated that the suspected official had been dismissed, and "the incident was a most regrettable one, but that everything had been done in the thorough investigation of the case." We agree with the Workhouse Committee that the matter is a most scandalous one, and that the Asylum authorities were much to blame in not taking precautions which would have made such a "regrettable" affair impossible, in not informing the Guardians of the fact in May last, when the woman's condition was discovered, nor the Guardians who subsequently visited the asylum in June, nor the female officer who fetched the patient on September 13th, when she was very near her confinement.

The Chairman (Canon Curtis) said that the most serious feature of the case was that the Asylum authorities had kept the patient's condition secret for eight months. He thought all authorities concerned should be approached, and asked to remove their patients at once, and that the Lunacy Commissioners should be requested to close the asylum. This was carried unanimously, and in the interests of all concerned we sincerely hope this plan may be adopted.

The scheme for the training of nurses at the Waterford Union Hospital, which is worked in connection with the City and County Infirmary, has proved a great success, and all connected with the movement are entitled to much credit. Since it was started a large number of young women have been trained, and have received important positions in Donegal, Galway, Wicklow, and Cork. One of the probationers who has just passed her examination, viz, Miss Denn, has just got an appointment at the Cork Union Hospital. Miss Denn, who is the possessor of a remarkably fine voice, during her stay in Waterford gave her services generously to concerts for charitable and deserving purposes in the city. The scheme, as we have just stated, was carried on jointly at the Workhouse Hospital and the Infirmary, and much of its success is due to the popular medical officers, Dr. J. H. J. Jackman, Dr. Alex. Forde, and the training nurse, Miss Annie Thomas. The affiliation of this Union Hospital with the County Infirmary for training purposes is a system which is to be commended to the notice of the Guardians of other Unions.

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