

tion of Miss Atherton to the Preston Board of Guardians for this holiday caused considerable discussion. It was urged by Miss Atherton's supporters that she had no fixed hours, that she was liable to be called upon any time of the day or night, and that a distinction should be made between the youngest probationer and the Superintendent Nurse; that she had charge of 200 patients and a staff of eighteen nurses, and that she had been twelve years in the service of the Board, during the whole of which time there had not been a single complaint. Surely a certainty of a night in bed for three weeks in the year is not much to ask after twelve years' service. Miss Atherton's request was granted, but it is almost inconceivable that there should have been three dissentients.

The Sanitary Committee of the West Riding of Yorkshire is bringing before the District and Rural Councils a scheme to secure the establishment among the isolation hospital authorities of the West Riding of a scheme for the temporary transfer or loan of nurses between hospitals to meet the fluctuating requirements of hospitals for infectious disease. The circular states that the Council are informed that within the administrative county there are thirty-eight isolation hospitals for general infectious disease, and fifty for small-pox. The nursing staff numbers some 300. Under the present system there are occasions when hospitals are over-staffed, owing to the absence or small number of patients, whilst, on the other hand, when an unusual number of admissions occur, the hospital authorities are compelled to engage special nurses at high salaries. A system of temporary exchange of nurses would avoid these extremes, and the Committee consider would secure more efficient nursing. A Conference to discuss the subject with representatives of the Councils concerned is being held as we go to press at the County Hall, Wakefield.

The Committee of the Southwold Cottage Hospital announce with regret the resignation, owing to ill-health, of the Matron, Miss E. Payn. Speaking of Miss Payn's long and devoted services, Mr. Herbert said they extended almost from the first months of the existence of the hospital, when it was in a small house, with no proper appliances, and discomforts of all kinds. The Matron had steered them through the move to the Town Farm House, and now that they had an up-to-date house she was compelled to leave them. Many old friends and patients would share the sorrow of the Committee, and earnestly hope for Miss Payn's restoration to health. Miss Payn's successor is Miss Telfer, who has already acted as Staff Nurse and Holiday Matron.

The Great Western Railway, which has built three luxurious trains for the Cornish service, has provided them also with ladies' maids and valets for

the comfort and convenience of passengers. The former will attend on ladies and children, and watch over timid ladies travelling alone. So far so good; but why should she adopt the uniform of the trained nurse, as did the maid who left Paddington on Saturday with the "Cornishman, Limited," who is described as "very neatly dressed in black alpaca, with a nurse's cap, collar and cuffs, and a badge inscribed 'G.W.R. Lady's Attendant'?" The nurse's cap is, we know, already adopted by children's nurses, attendants at nursing exhibitions, and others, and if it is to be adopted by attendants on trains also, it seems high time for some steps to be taken by hospitals and nursing institutions to protect their uniform. The uniform of the British soldier may not be copied or put to any other use than its legitimate one. Why should not the dress of the trained nurse be similarly safeguarded?

One of the members of a hospital committee was lately expostulated with by the others for his treatment of the nurses. "Let me alone," he said, "to deal with these educated women, nurses, barmaids, and such like." It is, however, comforting to know that the medical profession received the same amount of consideration, for, on the house-surgeon asking for vegetables, he exclaimed "Vegetables! vegetables! the man must go." Why do hospital committees in these enlightened days elect such a man to office? Money bags, as usual, we opine.

Hospital discipline is one of the points dealt with in the *National Hospital Record*. How to deal with all the diverse elements that enter into hospital life; how to deal with each individual so that the degree of order and system is maintained that is necessary to the best work and to the comfort and well-being of the entire household. Various Superintendents of Training-Schools and Hospitals detail what they have found to be the best methods to use in securing observance of hospital rules and regulations.

Miss Gilmour, Superintendent of the New York City Training-School, Blackwall's Island, says:—"The strongest feature in the carrying out of discipline and enforcing hospital rules has been the rank of the student. The whole school discipline, from the first day of entering the building, has been based upon seniority, and the pupil clings tenaciously to her rank. The most severe punishment she can have is the loss of that rank for any cause. As probationers the seniority is determined by the hour of arrival; at the end of the three months' preparatory course the seniority is determined by the standing at the examination. If a pupil breaks any of the rules of the institution she is, of course, warned that this must not occur again, and if she makes the same mistake again, she goes to the foot of the class. In some cases, where the offence is not a very great

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