

Consett Iron Works, with a purse of gold in appreciation of her work. The Chairman explained that the movement originated spontaneously amongst the workmen themselves. It was initiated amongst the blast furnacemen, and had extended to the other departments at the Consett Works. About £33 had been spontaneously subscribed. Councillor S. Carruthers and Mr. McCullough, on behalf of the working classes, bore testimony to the devoted and faithful services rendered by Nurse Jeffries, and expressed their regret that she was leaving them. They wished her God-speed and *bon voyage*. Mr. J. M. Nicholson, Secretary of the Nursing Association, on behalf of Nurse Jeffries, expressed her best thanks to the donors for their most kind gift. The nurse, who is shortly leaving to join her friends in Canada, will take with her the good wishes of many friends.

The fellow-officers and friends of Nurse Attwater, who is leaving the Cuckfield Infirmary, where she has held the position of Assistant Nurse, on account of her approaching marriage, have presented her with a handsome marble time piece as a token of their regard. The inmates of the infirmary have also presented the nurse with half-a-dozen plated spoons, in addition to many smaller gifts.

The Committee of the Swansea Hospital have decided to discontinue sending out private nurses, owing to the lack of accommodation in the hospital, but as Dr. Brook and others opposed the recommendation, it was decided that the private nursing department be considered "suspended." Charitable institutions which run a private nursing business for gain are, in our opinion, treating trained nurses unjustly. The little they can earn should be their own, and under a cloak of charity such hospital committees can no longer hope to hide their predatory predilections.

The adjourned conference between the West Riding Sanitary Committee and Isolation Hospital authorities of the West Riding was held at the County Hall, Wakefield, last week, under the presidency of Alderman Dunn, to consider the proposal to establish a bureau whereby it would be possible to exchange nurses from one hospital to another as necessity might arise. The committee recommended that the County Council be asked to undertake the keeping of a register of nurses available for temporary service in hospitals for infectious diseases within the administrative area of the West Riding County Council; that hospital authorities furnish the County Council with the name, qualification, &c., of any nurse or probationer who can be spared for temporary service in another hospital; and that negotiations for the loan of nurses be conducted direct by the hospital authorities concerned. The recommendations were fully discussed, and,

with slight modifications, they were accepted. The matter will have to receive the formal sanction of the County Council.

It is often necessary for patients to strip to the waist in the out-patient department for medical examination. It should be the duty of the Sister to see that the rooms used for such a purpose are kept well warmed—at a temperature of not less than 65 degs. In some rooms we have visited this chilly weather there has been no fire and no thermometer, nor any flannel garment for the patient to use. It is this lack of attention to detail which calls forth complaints from out-patients, who object to remain "in the buff" with open doors and windows when they may already be suffering with pneumonia and bronchitis.

An important point came up for discussion at the meeting of the Newton Board of Guardians, when Mr. A. J. Murrin said that the Visiting Committee desired to make a report. This was to the effect that a fortnight previously charges were made by the house doctor, Dr. Scrase, against a nurse which were substantiated, and the nurse resigned. The doctor refused to give the nurse a testimonial, and urged the Committee not to recommend the Board to grant one. It had since transpired that Dr. Scrase had given the nurse a testimonial, an action which the Committee felt was a breach of good faith. A member of the Board stated that he considered it wrong for the doctor to give the nurse a testimonial with which she could go and impose on other people.

On the doctor being asked for an explanation, he said that he had only testified to her character, not to her abilities as a nurse. Also that he had informed the nurse that in the event of any inquiries addressed to him by the Guardians to whom she was applying for a situation, he would feel bound to tell them of the complaints made against her. He could not plead guilty to breaking faith with the Committee. The Chairman said that the doctor had acted very unwisely, and Dr. Scrase replied that the Board should remember that justice should be tempered with mercy. Ultimately the doctor's explanation was accepted.

The question of testimonials is always a difficult one, and though it may not be possible to decline to give them in every case, probably those medical men are wisest who give as few as possible. Many a nurse collects a sheaf of testimonials signed by medical men whose names carry weight, who by no means lives up to the standard which in their kindness of heart these practitioners have ascribed to her after a somewhat cursory acquaintance, or which they would expect to be maintained. It is very desirable that the Matron or Superintendent, who of necessity has a more intimate knowledge of a nurse's work and conduct, should, where possible, testify to

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