

After a heated discussion of a committee of the whole Board, appointed to investigate the matter, the Guardians of the Salford Union have decided to ask the Local Government Board to hold an inquiry into the charges of mismanagement preferred against them by Mr. W. Robert Holland, a former attendant in the imbecile wards of the Hope Hospital. Mr. Holland, who now holds an appointment at the Kingsbridge Union Workhouse, had been invited to attend at the expense of the Guardians. This he declined to do, but wrote that if the Guardians would throw open the doors of the boardroom, announce a public inquiry, conducted on fair, honest lines such as became honest Englishmen, presided over by a neutral party and not by those whom an adverse verdict would most seriously affect, then he would assist, if it was assistance that was really required, to show up "the rotten administration of the Salford Union Infirmary."

Mrs. Shutt said that several things of which the Guardians had been accused, and of the existence of which they were quite ignorant, though probably they ought not to have been, had been righted. There was a certain amount of truth in some of the allegations. The Guardians had taken an early opportunity of sifting others for themselves. The most glaring of these, and a matter of which they had not been cognisant—and as a guardian for nine years she took her share of the blame—was that of the deficient bath accommodation. Steps were now being taken to increase the number of baths and to alter the method of bathing the patients. She was sure every guardian would condemn the system hitherto adopted. They were trying to remedy other things which Mr. Holland had brought forward. She regretted that he could not see his way to attend the inquiry. Probably he felt that would not be an impartial tribunal.

It was stated that sheets taken from the beds were used as bath towels.

It is to be regretted that the New Malden and Coombe Victoria Nursing Institute has been compelled to dispense with the services of its second nurse. The nurse was kept fully employed, but the necessary financial support was not forthcoming.

The Local Government Board for Ireland have, in order to meet the wishes of the Guardians at the Banbridge Infirmary, directed their inspector, Dr. E. C. Bigger, to hold an inquiry on oath into the circumstances connected with the resignation of nurses in that institution, which we reported in our issue of last week.

A very successful concert and theatrical performance in aid of the Countess of Dudley's Nursing Fund was given last week by visitors staying at the hotel in the village of Dugort, Achill Island, under the direction and management of Lord and Lady Clarina. The school-house, in which the performance took place, was much too small to accommodate all who wished to be present, the numbered reserved seats occupying all the available space.

At the monthly meeting of the Joint Committee of Management of the County Meath Infirmary the following unanimous resolution from the Ladies' Committee was considered:—

"The Ladies' Committee wish to inform the House Committee that nurses from this institution have been seen out walking with men when in uniform, which they consider against the well being of the institution, and they would ask the House Committee to give the Matron power to put a stop to this proceeding, which should not be allowed in any hospital. If nurses wish to walk with male friends they should be in plain clothes."

The House Committee did not take the same view as the ladies, and ultimately the following minute was adopted:—

"The House Committee ask for reasons for the above resolution. They consider it better that the nurses wear their uniform on the occasions referred to."

A question to be considered is whether the Committee provide the uniform, or whether it is the private property of the nurses. We think the House Committee are well advised to ask for the reasons of the Ladies' Committee for their resolution. At present it is merely the expression of a "pious opinion."

Miss Priscilla Baldwin, who has recently been Superintendent of a training school for nurses at Marsovan, Turkey-in-Asia, has been invited to take charge of a new pavilion of 110 beds, which is being added to a large Armenian Hospital at Constantinople, with the object of establishing a training school for Armenian girls, on modern lines, with the help of two English trained nurses.

Miss Baldwin, who was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Bradford, is keenly interested in the work which has great possibilities. Constantinople has many hospitals, as there are few private nurses and most people go into hospital when ill. Excellent medical advice and treatment are available, but nursing in many instances needs organising on modern lines.

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