

doms, it is becoming customary for persons of social distinction, who manage County Nursing Societies, to compare Queen's Nurses unfavourably with the general servant sick attendant whom they supply. It is a pity the Council of the Jubilee Institute does not follow the excellent example of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, and elect experienced hospital Matrons and Superintendents of Nursing on to the Council. Expert nursing opinion is almost entirely excluded from it.

At the last meeting of the Belfast Board of Guardians, Dr. Bryars moved that the period of training for nurses be four years, instead of, as at present, three years. Mr. Malcolmson seconded, and argued that there were too many "raw recruits" in the workhouse engaged in the nursing of the sick poor. Mr. Davis, in moving that consideration of the scheme be adjourned for six months, said the nursing in the institution was better than that of any other establishment in the three kingdoms. Dr. Ritchie, in seconding, advocated that there should be no change, as he knew the high opinion held of the nursing in the institution. It was eventually decided to hold a special meeting to consider the matter.

The majority of the largest general hospitals in England have now raised the term of service for nurses to four years. It is a long and severe probation, and would not be grudged by nurses if they were assured of some certainty of employment and degree of protection upon its expiration, but when, after four years' hard work, examinations passed, and certificates gained, they find themselves of no account in the open market, and to earn a living they are classed with, and have to compete with, women who have only given a few months' work to fit themselves for their responsible work, the injustice of the system becomes apparent.

If hospital committeemen continue to extract year upon year of service, with very small salaries, from their nursing staffs, they must cease their senseless and unjustifiable opposition to State Registration for these highly qualified and deserving nurses, or by and bye they will find the supply fall short, indeed, one of the chief anti-registration men writes on the question of the quality of training material: "Year by year we have to lower our standard!" Just so; injustice is killing the goose which lays the golden eggs.

At the South-Western Poor Law Conference at Taunton last week, the President, Sir C. T. D. Acland, discussing the question of out-relief, said that a great improvement might be effected by the employment of more district nurses for the sick poor, and he regretted that many rural boards of guardians objected to subscribe to the County Nursing Associations. Something might be done in workhouse infirmaries in training cottage nurses for this work, and co-operation with the County Nursing Associations was desirable.

We hope that Boards of Guardians will realise their responsibilities in maintaining the same standard of nursing for the poor as for the rich, and will only give financial support to associations which maintain this principle.

The Duchess of Marlborough, at the West Ham and East London Hospital, Stratford, distributed on Monday medals to the nursing staff, and entertained the patients to tea.

Speaking at Bradford at a cake and apron sale in aid of the general funds of the Bradford and District Nursing Association, the Lady Mayoress said that if the people of Bradford could have 600 registered motor cars in the city they could surely afford one or two extra nurses. At present they had only eleven.

When the book of questions was being read at the last meeting of the Swansea Workhouse Visiting Committee, Mr. Grey drew attention to the query: "Are the infirm properly attended to?"

The Medical Officer mentioned that the staff was efficient but insufficient, and in consequence the inmates could not receive proper attention. Dr. Stephens said there were three nurses to 105 patients, whilst at the new infirmary there were four nurses and 60 patients. Many of the cases were very bad, and the nurses broke down in health owing to being over-worked.

Ultimately, a sub-committee was formed to go into the matter.

We hope this cruel overwork of the nurses, which results in suffering for the poor patients, will be brought to the notice of the Local Government Board, or, better still, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, for no doubt the Workhouse piggies and pussies have an easier time.

The French Minister of War has decided to sanction the employment of civil *infirmières* in military hospitals. Since the laicisation of

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