

to the ward." They also point out that "the office of receiving ward attendant is a very responsible one, and persons appointed to it should be qualified by special experience in dealing with sick persons, and should, if possible, be trained in nursing and first aid."

It should, indeed, be a rule in every hospital and infirmary that, from the moment a patient is admitted, he passes under skilled care, and that receiving wards are placed under the supervision of a Sister or certificated nurse.

A most successful entertainment was held in aid of the Shoreditch and Bethnal Green District Nursing Association on Thursday, May 7th. The large Town Hall of Shoreditch was crowded, the programme excellent, and it is hoped that the financial result will repay all the labour spent on preparing for the concert.

The first part of the programme offered selections by the Highbury Ladies' String Band, a scene from the "School for Scandal," and the one act comedietta "Bubbles," all admirably rendered, and highly appreciated by an enthusiastic audience.

The "Folk Song Quartet" and the Highbury Ladies' String Band provided a most enjoyable treat in the second part of the programme.

It is always touching on these occasions to see how the poor patients try to help their nurses. All the cheaper tickets had been bought by them, and as all the better seats were filled as well, the Association ought to be satisfied with the result of their efforts. The funds have been in a very unsatisfactory state for some time, and money is much needed.

The resignation of Miss H. C. Poole, Matron of the East Lancashire Infirmary, Blackburn, a position she has held since 1895, has caused widespread regret not only in the Infirmary, where the nursing school under her wise and genial rule has attained a high reputation, but also in the town where she is deservedly respected. It is an open secret that the Committee have failed to support Miss Poole in a matter under dispute—she having had occasion to report a subordinate—with the result that she felt her standard of discipline and that of the Board differed, and she preferred to resign rather than to attempt to maintain discipline without the necessary authority.

That the opinion of the Nursing Staff is with the Matron is shown by the fact that the Assistant Matron, all the Sisters (with one exception), and every certificated nurse have

resigned, and by June 6th there will not be one qualified nurse of the present staff in the hospital. It is evidence of the high reputation enjoyed by the nurses trained under Miss Poole that nearly all the Sisters and nurses who are leaving are already practically engaged for other posts.

The Corporation of Glasgow, after receiving the recommendations of its Hospitals Subcommittee on the Report of the Commissioners appointed by the Local Government Board to enquire into the management of Ruchill Hospital have, as regards the Matron, adopted the majority report which recommended that she should be retained in her position, though disapproving of the tone and terms of her address to the Sisters and Staff Nurses. They reported that the Matron had expressed her regret for this indiscretion, and that the Committee had confidence in her ability and capacity. The minority considered that she should be censured for her general want of tact with the nursing staff.

The Corporation have unwisely refused to reinstate the three medical officers who were called upon to resign at Ruchill Hospital, when they complained of the general mismanagement and disorganisation, complaints which were proved to be true. The Corporation has thus placed itself in a very invidious and untenable position, by failing to do what is just. These medical officers have been made the scapegoats of the scandal, and we think they are wise in appealing to Cæsar—that is, public opinion on this matter, by every fair means of agitation in their power. The ultimate sufferers must be the poor of Glasgow, if the Corporation persists in its obtuse attitude, because for the future no official in their service will expose an abuse, if they are to be punished for doing their public duty. We are glad to note public meetings and plain speaking are being held in Glasgow to expose this wrong.

#### PRIZE GIVING AT THE ROYAL INFIRMARY, EDINBURGH.

The Right Hon. R. B. Haldane, Secretary of State for War, has consented to present the prizes to the nurses at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, on May 21st, when the Lord Provost will preside. The Secretary of State for War is very popular with nurses, as he has on more than one occasion proved that he has their interests at heart, and the above announcement will, we are sure, occasion much gratification to the staff of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)