

The medical and nursing staffs of a Poor-law infirmary where the moral standard is high, were naturally shocked when recently a domestic servant, in labour, was brought in wearing nurses' uniform. In reply to the medical officer's question why she was masquerading in a professional dress, she replied that it was by the order of her mistress.

This most undesirable custom, made fashionable by the ostentatious and vulgar rich, has now filtered through to the suburban establishment, where one maid is kept—to give the establishment *ton*. The general who takes baby out in his pram is to be seen in full nursing uniform, not excluding that remnant of the religious habit—a veil in full cry.

Great sorrow is felt at Steevens' Hospital, Dublin, at the grievous death of Miss Cecilia Mallanby, a member of the staff, who went on Christmas Eve to do temporary duty at Gorey Infirmary. Whilst alone on night duty, when replenishing the ward kitchen fire, her cotton gown ignited, and in her terror she rushed into the idiots' ward all aflame. The doctor was at once summoned, but after fourteen hours' suffering, she passed away.

Enquiry elicited the fact that no fellow nurse, or officer, was on duty to assist her. Surely this is a condition of affairs which should be rectified. It is not safe for an institution nurse to be on duty alone at any time, especially at night.

We regret to learn that there is considerable friction at the Ruchill Hospital, Glasgow, and the Local Government Board for Scotland has appointed Professor H. H. Littlejohn, of the Chair of Forensic Medicine, in Edinburgh University, to hold a preliminary investigation with a view of ascertaining whether the circumstances at the hospital call for a full and detailed enquiry.

The Glasgow Corporation Health Committee's Sub-Committee on Hospitals recently issued a statement to the press in which they say that many of the charges in circulation against the hospital would assume a different aspect if explained by those who knew the facts. That the present friction has arisen from want of harmonious working of the staff generally, and the ignoring of many of the regulations which have been laid down by the Corporation for the management of the hospital. In connection with the dismissal of three of the resident physicians, the Com-

mittee assert that this carries with it no suggestion of professional unfitness. That the Committee were enquiring into complaints made by the doctors, but they could not allow the rules of the hospital to be infringed, and it was the definite refusal of one of the resident physicians to observe a rule which led to their dismissal, after they had declined the alternative of resignation.

The dismissed doctors say, on the other hand, that the regulations of 1885, to which their compliance was demanded on December 26th last, when they heard of them for the first time, have long been out of print. The real grievance seems to lie between the residents and the Matron. Rule 6 of the 1885 regulations reads: "The resident assistant physicians shall see that their orders are strictly carried out by the nurses in their wards, and that they shall assist the physician-superintendent and Matron in maintaining discipline in the wards."

The physicians say that they have evidence to show that their orders were not being carried out, and that the Matron was to a large extent responsible for this. They, therefore, felt unable to come under the latter part of the regulation unless the co-operation of the Matron was given to the first. That for some time, owing to the conduct of the Matron, the residents have ceased to recognise her in other than her official capacity, and that it is because the Committee have interpreted this attitude as a breach of the latter part of Rule 6 that they have been dismissed. They assert that the want of harmonious working has arisen from the neglect of the patients, due to understaffing, both in regard to the inefficiency and insufficiency of the nurses, and they are prepared to prove at the proper time that the wards have been scandalously understaffed.

A leaflet is being circulated addressed to the citizens of Glasgow, and signed by 105 nurses, who ask "Are the citizens of Glasgow prepared to sacrifice eight loyal gentlemen of honour, education, and position and one hundred honourable young women who have the courage to stand up for justice and fair play? They are fighting in a body for the lives and welfare of the children of the citizens of Glasgow against tyranny, against inhumanity, against whom?"

We regret that such an *impasse* should have arisen in this beautiful hospital where during the régime of the late Matron we had the

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