

Nurses trained at the present day owe much to those who devoted themselves to the development of nursing when it did not offer the attractions and afford the opportunities of a pleasant career which it now does.

Miss Sawyer, the Lady Superintendent of the Kingston Nursing Association, who is just retiring, has had a long and varied career in the service of the sick, and we have pleasure in presenting her portrait, which appeared in the *Surrey Comet*. Miss Sawyer early showed a taste for nursing, and before she entered a hospital for training was constantly summoned to the assistance of friends and relatives in time of sickness. So twelve years of nursing in private families preceded her professional

career, when she entered the Nightingale Home of St. Thomas's Hospital for training. At the end of two and a half years' work an accident terminated her career at St. Thomas's, but after three months' rest, she once more took up work and nursed through epidemics of scarlet fever in the Bedfordshire villages of Flitten and Barton-le-Clay. In 1884 she was appointed Matron of the Medical and Surgical Hospital at Hitchin, which post she held for eight years and then resigned to become a Queen's Nurse, and worked in the Hitchin district for two years. After some experience of private nursing in London, Miss Sawyer was, in 1900, appointed Lady Superintendent of the Nursing Home in Birkenhead Avenue, Kingston-on-Thames, and, under her direction, the Home has developed so that five Queen's Nurses are at present employed, and a private nursing institution, and a Surgical Home (opened by H.R.H. the Duchess of Albany in 1903) are also under her care. Her retirement has occasioned widespread regret, both amongst the poor, and also to the nurses who have worked under her, and by whom she is universally respected, and many good wishes are expressed for her happiness in the days of greater leisure before her. She will be suc-

ceeded by Miss Milne, a Queen's Nurse, who is at present working in London.

The dispute between the Romford Board of Guardians and their Medical Officer, Dr. J. A. Frazer, throws a side light on a number of questions, which would be easily solved if there were any standard of training, or any system of central control in the nursing world.

Dr. Frazer wrote to the Local Government Board, and also a letter to the Guardians in which he stated that he considered the Chairman and a section of the Guardians deserved the most severe censure. Owing to the position taken up by the Chairman they had to meet a spirit of insubordination among the pro-

bationer nurses, and he suggested that patients suffered in consequence. The letter to the Local Government Board was in similar terms, but added that the trouble would not cease until the unsatisfactory probationer nurses were dismissed, and that the Guardians had recently been appointing an inferior class of servant girl totally unsuitable. The Chairman, at a special meeting last Friday, told Dr. Frazer, who was called before the Board, that the Board considered that he had grossly slighted them. The assertion about inferior servants was absolutely false. Dr. Frazer said he was willing to apologise if

the Chairman considered that he had done a discourteous act.

Captain Hervey, the Local Government Board inspector, who was present, said that the Romford infirmary was second to none in the country for its administration. Both the doctor and the Superintendent Nurse would feel their responsibility very keenly, and it must be very galling to officers of such an institution to find young women coming with the idea that they knew as much as those in authority over them. The Superintendent Nurse, Miss L. Rider, stated that lately unsuitable probationer nurses had caused her



Miss SAWYER.
Lady Superintendent Kingston Nursing
Association.

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