

sent her with a mark of affection, and a rule prohibiting all such gifts may press hardly at times. On the other hand, if any latitude is allowed, it is very apt to exceed legitimate limits and Christmas and birthday gifts to those in high places may become an annual tax on slender purses which nurses and probationers feel would be ungracious to refuse, but which many of them can ill afford. The rule in force at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, to which we referred last week, which prohibits collections within the institution for gifts to officials, commends itself to many people as the correct attitude. But, whatever may be said for and against its rigorous enforcement in all cases, there can be no question whatever that collections amongst patients in a ward, for gifts to the Sister or nurses of the ward, should not be permitted. We notice that such a collection, followed by a presentation, has been made to the Sister of a ward in a provincial hospital on more than one occasion, and we are of opinion that a regulation prohibiting any such gifts from patients to nurses in future, should be enforced at once by the committee.

The Special Committee appointed by the Hull City Council are holding meetings, but do not appear to be very determined upon reforms. The first thing to do is to appoint a highly qualified Matron, and support her in the administration of discipline. If needs be fill vacancies by the employment of qualified private nurses, until such time as an efficient selection can be made to complete the full nursing staff. To beg those who have resigned to reconsider their resignations can only prolong the chaotic condition of the institution. This has been the weak policy of the Chairman.

The vexed question of the nurses' dietary scheme again came up for consideration at the recent meeting of the Belfast Board of Guardians.

Mr. Joseph Mitchell moved:—

"That the resolutions of this Board of Guardians, adopted at their meetings on 6th September, amending the nurses' dietary, and on the 20th September amending the dietary for nurses and officers, and discontinuing the luncheon to nurses, be and are hereby rescinded, and I now move that the entire matter be reconsidered by the Board of Guardians."

He said the proposed changes in the dietary were a mistake, and ought to be rescinded.

Mr. Fee seconded.

The Chairman spoke at length on the question, and appeared to argue that because im-

provements had been made, such as building a new home for the nurses, and giving them a salary of £5 instead of nothing, it was unreasonable upon the part of the staff to express an opinion concerning the discontinuance of the light lunch formerly allowed.

Mr. David Adams was more logical when he said: "Beyond these facts, which could not be disputed by anyone, there was the larger question, and that was, Were they as elected representatives to govern and manage that institution or were the officers to do so? If they that day reversed their own decision as to the diet scales it would be the worst day he had experienced during his nine years as a Guardian, and their governing officials would not be heard or obeyed to the extent that they should."

The Chairman denied that the suggestion of a change originated in him, and "blamed it on to Eve." He said it was made by the new Housekeeper, and then he consulted some of the Charge Nurses on the subject, and they agreed. A verbal report was brought in subsequently by the Lady Superintendent and Lady Housekeeper, stating that the change was essential and should be tried.

Ultimately eighteen votes were given, as against ten, for the motion to rescind. This part of the resolution was declared carried, and the consideration of the question by the Board in committee was agreed to.

Let us hope the nurses will be permitted to enjoy their little lunch in peace. We well remember, in probationary days, the discomfort of the vacuum which resulted from a hurried breakfast at 6.45, followed by four or five hours' exhausting ward work, before a mid-day dinner. If it had not been for the surreptitiously baked potato—but that is another tale!

The new regulations for the examination of candidates for the Medico-Psychological Association's Nursing Certificate will for the future involve two examinations, but candidates who began their training before November, 1909, will only be required to take one as heretofore. The first of the new preliminary examinations will be held next May.

The Annual Conference of the Association of Nursing Superintendents of India is to be held at the Victoria Memorial Hospital, Benares, on December 14th, 15th, and 16th. The arrangements are in the hands of Miss A. R. Creighton, of Jaunpur.

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