

At the fortnightly meeting of the West Ham Guardians the clerk read a letter from the Local Government Board bearing upon the proposal of the Guardians to give the nurses at the Infirmary one day's rest per week. The Local Government Board stated that relative to the proposal of the Guardians in regard to the increase of the nursing staff at the Infirmary, the Board understand that there are already about 127 nurses at the Infirmary, and that the number of nurses to patients does not compare favourably with the average in similar institutions. They retain the view communicated in their previous letter that they cannot properly sanction the large increase which the proposals of the Guardians would involve.

Several members of the Board were of opinion that the proposal should be pressed upon the Local Government Board. It was stated that the nurses worked thirteen or fourteen hours seven days a week, that at every meeting the Guardians had to engage nurses to take the place of those who had broken down, and that the question of health was involved.

Miss Kerrison regretted that the nurses in common with other overworked people, did not ask for what they should. In her opinion every man and woman should have one day's rest in seven, whatever the Local Government Board might say, and the chairman said that when the matter was moved in committee he strenuously supported the proposal, not from a church-going point of view, but in the interests of human well being.

The hop-picking season has now commenced in Kent, and the correspondent of the *Daily News*, who writes after a ten-mile tramp through the heart of hopland, breathing its spice-laden air, which he says is a first-rate tonic, is struck by the hope of health which this annual outing brings to tens of thousands.

"As for the children," he writes, "they are getting into all sorts of mischief between one fit of industry and another. It is the white-faced children who interest me most; they seem so sadly out of place in this picture of the riotous health and rich fruitfulness of earth. They are the only faded things. The hops have been tended with the utmost skill, and have climbed up to their full stature in the sunshine; then the rain has refreshed them,

and they have become perfect in beauty and usefulness. Only the children have been forgotten.

"But just now they are quite as happy as the vines. Speaking in all seriousness, there can be few places in the world to rival a Kentish hopfield on such a day as this for quantity of sheer happiness. Work and play, good company, and a sense of adventure, fresh air now and good money presently—what more could a town-dweller want?"

And for the "faded children" there are the hospitals and the nurses to give them for a time the care which has "been forgotten." It is a good work the nurses are doing in the Kentish hop-fields in connection with the Church of England Mission to Hop-pickers. All success to it.

The Ripon Sections of the St. John Ambulance Association, formed in connection with the Territorial Field Ambulance Scheme, recently gave a demonstration of the way in which they had profited from the instruction they had received. The sanatorium at the Grammar School had been turned into a well-equipped hospital. Mrs. Hey officiated as lady superintendent, with eighteen nurses, and Dr. C. H. Greenwood was medical officer and commandant. There were three wards, one of five beds, and two containing two beds each. In these wards the nurses had prepared dressings, splints, and other appliances. The theatre was arranged for an operation, with all the necessary equipment. There were also tables and cases of exhibits of hospital and ambulance appliances from well-known firms. The nurses in charge of the kitchens had prepared samples of invalid food for inspection, and in a small room on the ground floor the books belonging to the detachment and its working were on view. In addition to the ladies forming the nursing staff there was the nucleus of the men's company under Dr. S. Hey as commandant. Each wore the Red Cross badge and the Red Cross flag was flying at the cricket pavilion.

Certificates were presented to those who had earned them by the Marchioness of Ripon, the Women's Section largely preponderating.

Speaking recently at Wellington, Lady Islington (as reported by the *Daily Telegraph*), said it was imperative to have a system of supplying nurses from the hospitals who could give attention to people in remote districts. Schemes were

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