

support both of the Committee of Management and of the Medical Staff. The regulations for the nursing department need consideration and readjustment. Trouble is sure to result when a governing body delegates its power and responsibility to a subordinate officer. Every nurse, including nurses of all grades, should be appointed and discharged by the Committee upon the recommendation of the matron; but the matron, herself an official, should not be empowered to discharge her subordinate staff. The seed of resentment was sown at Chester which has resulted in the sacrifice of the late matron, when she, instead of the Committee upon her recommendation, discharged a sister. A matron should not be placed in this invidious position. The sooner the managers of the Chester Infirmary set their house in order the better—they are not dealing with their own private affairs but are trustees of public funds, and responsible to the subscribers for the good conduct of a public institution.

At a meeting of the Plymouth Board of Guardians on the 19th inst. the Clerk read a letter from a nurse in the phthisis ward tendering her resignation, and letters from two probationer nurses asking to be relieved from their engagements under the Board. Complaints were made of the conduct of the patients in the phthisis ward, and also as to the character of the work to be performed. One of the probationer nurses complained that she had learnt nothing while she had been in the infirmary, and also that the work was not properly arranged. Mr. Ambrose suggested that it was a matter for inquiry. He considered they should accept the resignation of the nurse, and refuse to accede to the request of the probationer nurses. The whole matter should then be referred to the Special Purposes Committee, in order to have a full investigation. This course was taken.

We hope the Special Purposes Committee will go carefully into the question of the educational course provided for probationers. As we have no accepted standards for nurse teaching, probationers are sometimes most unfairly treated in this particular.

We own to some sympathy with Miss E. A. Johnston, the Superintendent Nurse, who has recently resigned her position at Banbridge. A communication was read from her at a recent meeting of the Board in the following terms:—“The testimonial you have given me, in which my hard and incessant and faithful work during the past ten years and ten months receives only

nine words of formal commendation, is not calculated to be of any service to me, and I beg to return it.” It was pointed out that the words referred to were, “To the entire satisfaction of the Board of Guardians.” The persons composing the Board appeared perfectly satisfied that nine words of commendation from themselves should recompense any woman for ten years' arduous labour, and frank her from Dan to Beersheba, and allowed the matter to drop.

In the Dublin hospital world, the Golden Jubilee of the Mater Misericordiae Hospital—named by *Freeman's Journal* “the Queen of Irish Hospitals”—is quite an event. It is interesting to learn from a very touching appeal made in that journal that the idea of erecting the Mater originated with the Sisters of Mercy, and was not in any manner suggested by representations made to them. It is almost needless to mention that the foundress of their great Order was the richly gifted and saintly woman, Catherine M'Auley. She must have had a noble mind and a strong one, a big heart and a brave one, a limitless fund of compassion, and a love of God that inspired and dominated every impulse of her being. She had an intense anxiety to establish a hospital, and it was always kept in view by her community, and Rev. Mother Mary, who ruled some years after her death, approached Cardinal (then Archbishop) Cullen, relative to the subject, and sought his permission. The request was granted, unceasing aid was rendered, and manifold blessings bestowed on the enterprise. The site selected was in every respect admirable, perhaps the very best within the urban boundaries. On the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy, 1852, the foundation stone was laid by Cardinal Cullen. The ceremony was exceedingly striking and impressive, and it was attended by many distinguished persons, and an immense concourse of people. On the completion of the front portion of the building it was opened for the admission of patients in 1861, with thirty beds, and the number increased rapidly.

The visitation of an epidemic of cholera in the year 1866 caused consternation and terror amongst the citizens. All was dismay, confusion and horror, because the necessity of making the essential preparations had not even been thought of. Consequently, no provision had been made when the deluge of desolation poured over the defenceless city. It is strange and sad to state that no hospital but Sir Patrick Dun's and “The Mater” would receive any of the plague-stricken

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